

## Forward

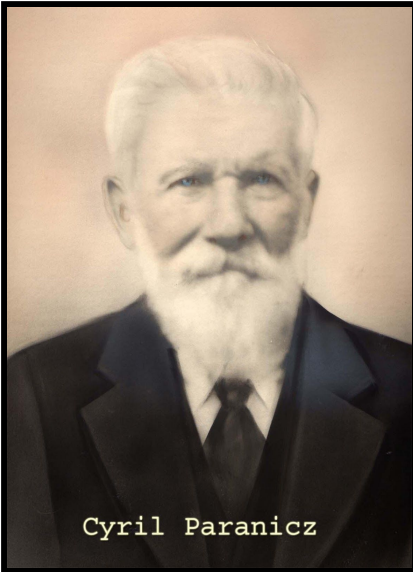
Memories are those special kinds of things that we wrap up tightly with the strings of our hearts so that they must be tugged on gently every so often to move us. They bring us a smile or sometimes a tear. A family history is one of these things. A full history, however, is more than just memories, even more than a list of names and dates in a family tree; and definitely more than an old photo or story passed down. A history can warm our hearts and gather us together into a vision of family and togetherness. It can bring forth tears, frustration, and, in some, even anger. A family history is a bond that remains unbroken throughout the years, good or bad. It has a life all unto itself and continues despite each individual's experiences. Our history helps to form who we are, how we think and how we perceive the world. This is how we recognize where we have come from and where we are going forward to.

A history by itself can be rather dry, shallow and hard to understand if it is taken outside of its historical context. Unfortunately, it is almost impossible to relate the complete history as it is somewhat of a never ending story. A background of historical events, cultural insights and maybe even a little weather here and there can breathe some life into back into the stories that are left behind by others. Further research can usually uncover errors that would otherwise go unchecked.

That is what I hope these stories will reflect when they are finished. They are an array of recollections and historical fact, blended together along with photos and family stories and backed up with relevant documentation that either confirms or denies these stories. The documents are not placed throughout the stories to bring offense or discourage the reader from relating his particular view but to enlighten and correct minor errors. Memories fade but if I can record these for the future family members and correct the errors before they become too blatantly wrong than I believe that I have done what I have set out to do.

I hope that all members of the family enjoy these stories as much as I enjoyed researching and writing them. I also want thank all those family members that have helped me along the way.

Marvin Paranych



In 1900, amongst the 170,000 new immigrants to the Northwest Territories (included northern Alberta at the time), came an average Ukrainian family of eight people. A simple Ukrainian cantor and farmer (he actually recorded his occupation as a day laborer on the ship manifest), Kyrilo (Cyril) Paranicz and his wife Julia (Dunajewski) Paranicz, had decided to immigrate to Canada, instead of Brazil. The reports had been favorable and they were no doubt excited about the prospects of a new life and freedom for their children.

They must have heard the terrible stories of Brazil; about the frustration and in some cases the death and disease that existed there at the time. They would have heard about the hardship facing other settlers when they tried to colonize the Amazon. Some settlers had actually been in such dire straits they had bartered away their children rather than see them suffer the degrading conditions!

They probably would have read much from Dr. Oleskow's reports of Canada and a place called the Northwest Territories, which were available at the time. They talked about the fertile land and the colonies already in place there; Dr. Oleskow warned about being prepared for hardship but seemed assured these hardships would not endure. They also had friends there, as well, in some place called Beaver Lake (later called Beaver Hill Lake). They would go to Canada and stay with Mr. Ruzicki, a man who was already established and who came from the village they now lived in, Biala, Chortkiv.

Stories mention that they had just had twins and that sadly they had lost the sister to their little baby son, Zenon (Zenowy or Sam), before they made the journey. We are unable to document this. Cyril had fashioned a cradle by hand that folded up and could be strung from the ceiling in the boat so the baby would be comfortable. (Ed. Note: This cradle now hangs in the museum at St. John's Cathedral in Edmonton. Made from solid strips of oak, it is quite small).

They packed up their belongings and some tools to be transported for the journey. The trip would take some time, for first they had to make their way to Hamburg, Germany to board a ship. From a wagon, to the train, over the Austrian Alps and then to a ship to cross the Atlantic Ocean, they must have been filled with many mixed emotions.

They would, no doubt, miss their little cottage and garden in the village (family stories speak of a small orchard with pear, cherry and plum trees) that they were so accustomed to. They would miss their friends and relatives, as well. They would remember them and tell their children and grandchildren of the Ukraine. They would carry their customs, their religion and their language with them in their hearts to this new land.

Though money and land was scarce amongst the peasants of Chortkiv at the time, stories tell us that Cyril had owned 28 morgs of land. The average land holding for an immigrant before they came to Canada was 5-6 morgs. (There are 113 morgs of land to 160 acres). Custom was at the time to divide your land holdings between your male heirs and Cyril had 6 of them.

If he had followed the custom, his children would have been very poorly off. This could have been one of the motivating factors that spurred his move to Canada. Many immigrants arrived with little or no money and whatever money Cyril had saved or accumulated from the sale of his land went towards the move. It is said in family stories that he left with \$2000. They had been told that when they arrived to their destination that they would only have to pick out the land they wanted and pay a small registration fee of \$10 and they would be given 113 morgs (160 acres) of land! This must have seemed incredulous to them but letters from other settlers and Dr. Oleskow assured them that the stories were true.

However he came upon his money, Cyril had managed to accumulate enough to pay the steamship ticket and railroad costs to transport his family and belongings to Canada. The fare for the boat would have been approximately \$640 for the entire family. This would not have included the food required to feed them all. There is a family story that mentions having to smuggle his son, John, aboard the boat so that he could avoid the conscription to the army that was required of young men. The age of conscription was 25 and John was 21 at the time he left the Ukraine. He is shown under his name, with his age, as traveling with the family on the steamship manifest. Though John may have felt great relief that he did not have to serve in an effort that took so many of his friends away never to return, it is doubtful that they actually had to smuggle him out.

As well as their eldest John (21) and their youngest Zenon (5 months) they had their other sons to consider. Their second eldest Clemen (Klem) was ten; their third son Athomy (Anton) was nine; the fourth Wlodimyr (Lodic, Walter) was four; and finally their small toddler Eugen (Eugene) was two. There would be opportunities in Canada for all of them.

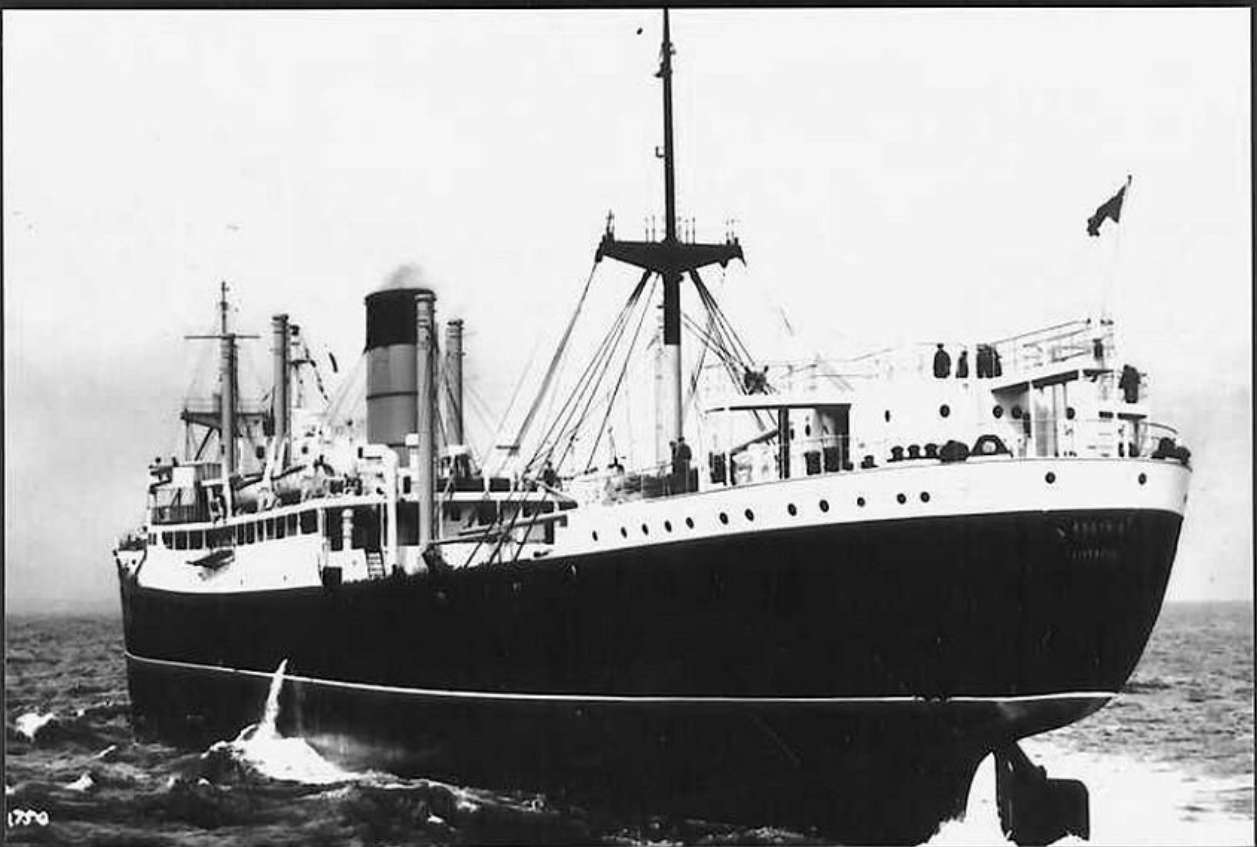
It would not be easy and there was much work to do when they reached Beaver Lake, but the promise of free land from the immigration agents was very enticing. And so, wary and maybe a little worried, with Austrian passports in hand, they left for Canada.

The train ride to Hamburg was a slow and tedious one in those days and must have been quite the challenge with 5 smaller children to contend with. Food was limited to whatever Julia would have prepared and packed prior to leaving. It would have taken a few days to reach the port and they would travel through what was then called Eastern Galicia, through parts of Austria and Germany and on into the port city of Hamburg. Hamburg was the busiest port for emigration from Europe in the 1900's.

The docks were very large and long and the ships were huge. There was a flurry of organization and activity that must have been scary for such unworldly people. There were these huge towering ships being loaded with goods and provisions for the voyage. Cargo, belongings and people scattered everywhere. And the noise. Always there was the noise. This was the activity that consumed Hamburg in 1900. Everywhere you looked there were people and such a variety of languages and appearances. Most would go to America; a portion would stop in Canada.

After unloading the cargo they had brought and locating the ship they were to depart on, the SS Assyria, Cyril and Julia gathered their children, their belongings, and their nerves, and proceeded up the gangway to the ship's purser, who recorded their names upon the ships manifest for the immigration people at the receiving end of the trip.

The Assyria was built in 1898 for the Hamburg Amerika Line. She was a 6581 gross ton ship that was 420.7 ft in length and 54.4 ft across and was powered with two sailing masts and one funnel that exhausted the steam driven single screw propeller. She had a top speed of thirteen knots and had fifty first class accommodations and room in the steerage section for 1200 third class passengers. Her last voyage on the Hamburg Amerika Line was December 11, 1904. She was then sold to the Russian Volunteer Fleet and renamed the "Sveaborg". She was scrapped in 1928 and after much research I have located the attached photo of the actual boat that the family travelled on.





Ukrainian is a Cyrillic language and is difficult to translate to English, so no doubt Cyril told the ship's purser to spell it the way Cyril's father Lucas, and his father before him, Kossanko, had. Still looking at their name in another language must have been strange to them...Paranicz. The name would later evolve in the new country into three different variations. This is the spelling that is found in his citizenship papers as well as his baptism certificate.

They boarded the SS Assyria on June 19, 1900 and traveled as a complete family unit on steamship ticket A1900-0210 from the Hamburg-America Steamship Company. They were the only family on board the boat that carried the family name to the new world.

A little aside here: there is a story that is a common myth heard by many genealogists, amongst families seeking answers to the other groups that have the same name. It goes something like this: "There must have been a brother or two that came with them and they had a parting of the ways."

In this case, that is simply not true. The ship manifest reveals that they traveled alone. There may have been other family members that entered Canada or the United States either before or since they immigrated but we are unable to confirm that this is so. There was a Paranich that passed through Ellis Island in the United States in 1923 but if she married she would have taken another name.

So back to our story: They were traveling a steamship class called steerage according to their ticket. These were the peasant quarters in the lower portions of the ship. The more expensive cabins in the upper decks were reserved for those that could afford the extravagant fares and luxurious dining facilities. Food was available, to the lower class, in canteens that dispensed basic foodstuffs, though the prices were very high. Many people would prepare their own meals on the stoves provided in the dormitory style rooms that housed many families at once, and Julia would have had to do the same. They were

to share the same bathroom facilities with many other families and the lighting was dim. Bathing was almost non-existent.

There were no portholes and very little ventilation as these decks were most times at or below the resting water level of the ship. The ships in those days were not equipped with stabilizers and they would have rocked constantly; in a storm they rocked violently.



Illness and seasickness were not uncommon and the lower decks were kept locked in the evenings, as the crews feared the peasants were predisposed to criminal or violent behavior. At times the odors were unbearable and reports have been made of crew members who ventured into the steerage section and became overwhelmed with violent nausea almost immediately. During the day, the commoners were allowed onto the main decks for fresh air and exercise, but the upper decks were off limits to them and reserved for cabin passengers.

Despite all the seasickness and home remedies that did not work (doctors were not made available to the lower classes); the voyage must have been high adventure for the children from the small poverty-ridden villages. The vast enormity of the ship alone must have been exciting and in the dormitories there was little work or chores to do and many other children to play with.

The men spent their time, when they were not ill, playing cards and smoking and generally discussing their plans for the new world. The women would spend their time tending the ill and cleaning as best they could while the children played and ran amongst all the chaos.

They traveled the direct route to Canada, as shown on their ticket. The voyage took approximately nine days (exact arrival date as yet unconfirmed). By the time most immigrants emerged from the steerage decks in Halifax, they were grateful that the worst was over. They were usually greeted by an immigration agent and they presented a very sorry excuse for a human being, as most agents recorded. The majority were desperately in need of a bath and in some cases, medical attention. Their lack of understanding of the English language did nothing to assist the problem.



Then, there were the con artists that prayed upon their naïveté and the crime that occurred amongst the general pandemonium of the Halifax docks. Many people were cheated out of what little money they had left. Cyril and Julia seemed to escape this experience and once again gathering up their brood and belongings, gathered some more provisions and under the guidance of the immigration agents made their way to the C.P.R. station.

There they boarded the train and prepared to endure the approximate week long journey by train from Halifax, through Toronto and onto Winnipeg. From there the train would take them to Calgary and then

up to the Town of Strathcona across the river from Edmonton, in the Northwest Territories.

The immigration cars used by the C. P. R. in those days were little more than what we would deem a cattle car today. They had wooden benches and a communal bathroom in one corner. The people crowded into the cars; their belongings were loaded into a freight car, with the exception of personal luggage and the food they had brought for the trip. The ventilation was better and the windows were opened frequently. They were certainly not as crowded as the steerage decks. As uncomfortable as these cars were, they must have been a huge relief from the dimly lit, smelly quarters on the ship.

The country must have seemed to stretch on forever and by now the realization of what they had undertaken must have started to make an impression on them. Never would they return to the Ukraine; a letter would take seventeen days to mail from where they were going. This was a grueling and challenging time for all but I suspect it was particularly bad amongst the women who were charged with caring for the children and preparing the meals. There was a coal stove in the center of the car to provide heat and a cooking facility for the women.

Some people might have been familiar from the ship; but there were also others from many other ships. People could move from car to car and you could stand outside on the decking at the end of each car and watch the countryside slip away.

The nights of late spring and early summer brought the chilled air into the cars as they moved west toward the Rocky Mountains along the rails of steel and the benches and floors of the train were not the comfortable beds they knew back in the Ukraine. The heaters did little to provide warmth for those unfortunate enough to be at the ends of the train cars. The children slept closest to the heater and the adults huddled together for warmth. The slow moving trains of those days lurched and strained under the weight of their human cargo and seemed never to stop except to drop mail and bring on coal and water for the engine. Many would leave the train in Winnipeg or Regina and there was more room.

One can imagine the train moving through the prairie on a warm day, the windows open, the sun heating the car to a comfortable temperature. The children still found time to play together. Some children were even born on these trains. The first true Canadians of Ukrainian descent. As long as this journey was, there must have been a sense that it was almost over and the excitement built as they approached the end of the steel in Strathcona.

As the train stopped at Strathcona station, many tired immigrants stepped off the train. There, the immigration agents arranged temporary accommodations for the people and assisted those that needed their help. It is unknown if Cyril and Julia met Mr. Ruzicki



as they stepped off the train or if they had to wait a few days for him to arrive. As a matter of record, had they waited they would no doubt have stayed in one of the many "immigration shacks" erected on C.P.R. land. After loading up the wagon it would have taken a very long day's journey by wagon to reach the Ruzicki homestead at Beaver Lake.

The Ruzicki homestead was a stopping point for many newcomers and the small home, by one account, once had 32 people staying there at one time. It provided the children a place to once again run and play and gave Cyril and Julia an opportunity to rest after their harrowing voyage. For the first time in almost three weeks everyone had the chance to enjoy a decent meal and a comfortable bed. After a suitable rest and time to select a homestead, Mr. Ruzicki took Cyril to Edmonton to see the land Agent and on July 25, 1900, Cyril purchased his quarter of land for the registration fee of \$10. John, his son, saw this as an opportunity as well, much to the chagrin of Cyril. He would purchase his land four days later.

There is another family story that states the family had \$300 when they disembarked the train in Strathcona. This may well be true, but this money was not to last very long. The homestead documents recorded the fact that Cyril purchased three horses and two cows



that summer. He also bought a plow but they since they had filed for a homestead on July 25, 1900, it was much too late to plant a crop. He would need food and shelter for the winter and another story relates him purchasing eight bags of flour. He would have needed straw and hay for the animals to survive the harsh Canadian winter.

They dug out a shelter into the side of hill on their land and boarded up the front. These buildings were not uncommon amongst the immigrating

Ukrainian people and resembled a root cellar. These were known as burdieos. Most had a log frontage and a small stove for heat and cooking. The front door was not usually over four feet high. The picture on the left is a typical burdieo.

As it was completed, it must have occurred to both Cyril and Julia, that they had done it. They had uprooted their family from Biala, Chortkiv in the Ukraine to halfway around the world to this strange, unusual country of Canada and a little Ukrainian settlement in Beaver Lake called Royal Park. They would survive the harsh winter on wild game, flour and potatoes. In the spring, with the help of their son John, they would begin building their house. But that is another story.....

Marvin Paranych





No. 38545

DOMINION



LANDS.

INTERIM HOMESTEAD RECEIPT.

No. 6335



Agency,

190

**I Certify**

that I have received from John Paramey

the sum of TEN Dollars, being the office fee for Homestead Entry for R.W.

Quarter of Section 24 Township 52 Range 16

West of 4th Meridian, and that the said J. Paramey

is, in consequence of such entry and payment, vested with the rights conferred in such

cases by the provisions of "The Dominion Lands Act," respecting Homestead rights.

J. Paramey  
Local Agent.

**NOTE.**—This entry is granted under and subject to the provisions of the Dominion Lands Act and its amendments, governing Homestead Entry for Dominion Lands.

John's Homestead document

Form A.

No. 6334

## APPLICATION FOR A HOMESTEAD ENTRY.

I, Cyril Paraniuk

of Beaver Lake

do hereby apply

for a Homestead Entry, under sub-clause me of clause 38 of "The

Domestic Lands Act," for the S.W. Quarter Section of Section Number 24

of the 52 Township, in the 16 Range west

of the 4<sup>th</sup> Meridian.

Cyril Paraniuk

Edmonton District.

July 23 / 1900

Note.—The statistical information asked for below will be obtained and filled in by Agent when granting entry.

Number in family,  
including natural.

NATIONALITY

WHERE FROM

PREVIOUS OCCUPATION.

4

Russian Galicia Farmer

*Cyril's Homestead Entry*



Respublica: Polonia.

Palatinatus: *Tarnopol*

Districtus: *Choróń*

Dioecesis: *Stanislawopolensis*

Parochia: *Biala*

Numerus: *209.*

# TESTIMONIUM ORTUS ET BAPTISMI.



Ex parte Offici parochialis gr.-cath. Ecclesiae sub tit. *Resurrectionis* in *Biala*  
notum testatumque fit in libris metricalibus hujus Ecclesiae Tom. *V* pag. *7* reperiri sequentia:

Annus, mensis et dies nativitatis baptismi et confirmationis	Locus nativita- tis et № domus	Nomen	Religio	Sexus	Thori	Parentes: Nomen et conditio:	Patrini: Nomen et conditio:
Anno Domini millesimo nongentesimo octingente- nimo quui- quagesimo secundo i. 1852/ Die 2 <sup>a</sup> Aprilis natus, bap- tizatus con- firmatusque est.	<i>Biala</i> <i>16.</i>	<i>Cyrillus.</i>  <i>Obstetrix:</i> <i>Pelagia</i> <i>Lawadars.</i>	<i>graeo-catholica</i>	<i>masculinus</i>	<i>legitimus</i>	<i>Lucas</i> <i>Paranico</i> <i>Kossomko</i> <i>Helenapetra</i> <i>Andreas Bod-</i> <i>marowicz i klas-</i> <i>cechae natae Hra-</i> <i>bowy</i> <i>Labrowsi</i>	<i>Georgius</i> <i>Bodnar</i> <i>Maria</i> <i>Rinna</i> <i>Labrowsi</i>

Ouas testimoniales manu propria subscribo et sigillo Ecclesiae parochialis munio.

*Biala*, die *14. novembris* A. D. 19 *34.*



*Stephanus Cichowski*  
parochus.

Накладом Церковної Штук в Станиславові. — Друк. Пов. Союзу Кооператив в Станиславові.

Cyril's Baptism Record

## Chapter Two - The Early Years-1900-1910

It would be a mistake to suppose that there has ever been a time when one did think he was witnessing the decay of admirable notions that were accepted a few decades before. The world, as often seen subjectively by the middle-aged or elderly person, seems to always be in a perpetual state of decay. Judgment and morality always seems to be sounder some thirty years hence. It is not uncommon then, to hear the phrase "the good old days" when they were not really that good at all. It is with this in mind that memories, from a researcher's objective point of view, tend to be flawed. For this reason the histories are being rewritten from the perspective of historical fact and government records. Any reference that is made to family stories is noted so that the reader can compare notes and judge for themselves...

The winter of 1901 was apparently quite harsh for the family from Bila, Ukraine, and the neighbors who lived around them. 128 cm (4.2 ft) of snow fell that winter. This was a marked difference from the somewhat warmer climate they were used to. The first snowfall occurred on Aug 28 of 1900 and was six inches deep. The snow would stay until the latter part of May, 1901. They were familiar with snow, just not this much! Historical weather records reveal the climate they came from was very similar to that of Penticton, British Columbia.

The Paranicz family, mostly Cyril and his older sons John, Klem, William and Anton cleared their first two acres of land before the winter in 1900. This provided firewood for the winter and larger logs for the house that they would start later. It also cleared the way for the garden Julia would plant in the spring. Eugene and Zenowy, their youngest would spend most of their time inside during the winter.

The bordeio they had built sheltered them from the worst of the cold but they were known to be drafty and wet at the best of times. The front facing was packed with mud and straw to keep the warmth in. The walls, ceiling and floors were packed dirt. A steel plate and stone-work oven/fireplace provided the heat and a cooking facility for Julia. They, according to the homestead records, lived in the bordeio for three years, during the construction of the house Cyril and his son's would build.

The winter must have seemed cold and dark with the extensive snowfall and extreme cold of January and February. The temperature dropped at times to - 40. The bordeio had no windows so there was little natural light. Candles and lamps would have burned continuously. Outerwear consisted of sheepskin boots, parkas, hats and mitts. Traditionally this was what was worn by most Ukrainian men who came to Canada and resulted in the label "the men in the sheepskin coats". This clothing was highly effective and kept them warm while they were doing chores.



And were there ever chores to do. The animals they had purchased had to be kept warm and well fed. Snow had to be brought in to melt as they had no well. Water had to be packed back out to water the animals. Bathing was a similarly difficult procedure. Firewood was chopped and hauled inside regularly. The fireplace was constantly busy heating the bordeio and drying out the wet clothes from outside. Keeping the fire going was an essential element of their existence.

The younger children more than likely stayed inside with Julia on the coldest days and when they were not busy helping her, they had time to play amongst themselves. In such small quarters they probably pushed the patience of both parents. When they could go outside, it was could not have been for very long and the trips to church for mass or to town for supplies were most likely their only respites from the confined quarters.

The children would have huddled together in the back of the wagon under blankets and skins to keep warm for the trip. The horses snorting and pulling the wagon through the deep drifts would have made for a very bumpy ride. The cold creak of leather harnesses and the occasional crack of the whip would mix with the cheery voices of the children.

With so much snow the slightly rolling hills of the area probably were quite pristine to see. One can imagine the excitement the sighting of a deer, coyote, or the occasional rabbit would stir up. Along the way, the smoke spiraling from the chimneys of the few houses and bordieos acted as marker posts. There were few if any power lines as the telegraph followed only the railroad in those days. There was some fencing but very little. Fencing was only standard on the more established farms of which there was few. The occasional meetings along the rough roads with other settlers were also exciting for the children. There would be a quick exchange of news and away they would go again.

Back in the Ukraine the crossroads were where most news was transferred. Meeting strangers or friends for a minute or so gave people a chance to quickly update bits of news and gossip. Bulletins or notes and requests for prayers were posted here as well. This custom was carried over to the new world and was quite effective in transferring news.

The closer they got to the church or the town, the more people they would encounter on horseback and in wagons and sleds. Few would be walking by now, probably catching rides with their passing friends.

Though cars did exist at this time, motoring was considered a pastime for the rich or for those that had more money than sense. It was very uncommon to see a vehicle used as daily transport. The country roads were more like bush trails in those days. Broken axles and stuck vehicles were the norm for motorists and winter driving was almost unknown especially in the countryside. Drivers who were unfortunate enough to get stuck or stranded usually were at the mercy of a farmer with a sturdy team of horses. Cyril Paranicz in particular, would never own a vehicle. Later, as his children grew and roads



improved, they would embrace this new technology. Cyril would remain faithful to the use of horses for whatever he did.

The church was the central social feature in the life of early settlers, and so it was with most Ukrainian immigrants. Few people would leave the Byzantine style church immediately after mass, they would share news and the children would play together with other children. The occasional visits after church to see people they had met or knew previously were a treat. Unlike today, businesses were closed on Sunday, so the town site would be very quiet and most of the activity was centered on the church property. Weddings and funerals were almost always large affairs.

The trips into town for supplies had to be done during the week. The scene that ensued was not much different from theatre depictions of the early 20th century. Even the smaller centers, like Mundare, were busy with wagons moving up and down the street. Saddle-horses and motorcars on the same street probably made for a very strange site, indeed.

People would meet on the wooden sidewalks and stop to chat. Men would share news and perhaps a cigarette. Women talked amongst themselves and shared gossip. The children never wandered far; there were so many things to see and do. Those children that were fortunate enough to have a penny would seek out the candy store. Supplies that had been purchased from merchants and suppliers were loaded onto the wagons.

Women would purchase their basic groceries from the general store in small amounts. Salt, baking powder and flour were the most common. Occasionally a small amount of material and sewing supplies were purchased, but only occasionally. Towards spring, kegs of nails, rolls of barbed wire and bags of seed were the most common purchases.

### *The Building Of Cyril's house*

In the spring of 1901, the work began in earnest on what was to be their new home. Julia planted a garden, while Cyril, John and Klem cut trees and pulled stumps to clear more land. A small crop of 2 acres was planted that year (1901). Another 3 acres were cleared for the next year (1902). The spring, summer and fall days were long but they went by quickly and there was little time for relaxation. John would spend some time at his own homestead clearing land and had begun the start of what would be his small two room home.

In 1901, the site for Cyril's home was selected and the base work for the house began. The outside framework was laid down and the ground cleared of plants. They built a plank floor by splitting logs with the axes they brought from the Ukraine. The upright supports were put into place. Interior walls were marked off. Regardless of the weather

the work went on. If they were not busy working on the house, they were in the field clearing brush, picking rocks, putting in fencing or erecting out buildings. Some work was done with the help of friends; some was exclusively family work.

This hectic pace was common on most homesteads. The new immigrant population was diligent about establishing themselves. Up early in the morning and working until sundown was the way of life; sleep came easy for the bone-weary workers.

Later that summer, according to the homestead records, they would also build a flour mill and use the grinding stones that family stories tell us they brought with them from the Ukraine. A well was also dug and a granary built.

They would have had their own flour the second winter, fresh water from the well and vegetables from the garden. Julia, like most homesteading women, would have spent a great deal of time preserving food to be used in the winter. A root cellar was prepared to store potatoes, cabbage, corn, beets and carrots.

Wild mushrooms, and berries (especially Saskatoon's) added flavor and a welcome treat to their diets. Wild ducks, geese, and rabbits were plentiful and provided a fresh source of protein. Any meat that was stored had to be salted, dried or smoked. Some could be frozen as the winter set in and the temperature fell.

It is unknown when they actually obtained milk cows although the 1906 census shows they had two and the homestead records indicate that they had originally bought 2 head of cattle. They had small children so it is highly likely that at least one was a milk cow and that they had milk, cream, butter and cheese.

When the first snows of September 1901 came they were much better prepared to handle the rigors of the next winter. Food would not be lacking and firewood was plentiful. There would have been hay and straw for the animals and water from their new well.

In 1902, the family planted a five acre crop. They cleared an additional 3 acres of land and continued work on their new home. The walls for the interior of the house were erected and covered with planking. The exterior walls were built and packed with mud. Windows were installed. The ceiling was installed. The rye straw from their crop was dried, bundled and probably stored inside the structure. Later, during the winter, many evenings would be spent weaving the straw bundles into a waterproof matt covering for the roof.

In the spring of 1903, the joists were built and nailed into place. Lifting them into place was accomplished with horses and pulleys. A grid structure of wood was placed parallel to the trusses and the roofing bundles were attached to these and carefully overlapped. More mud was applied to the walls outside and smoothed over. The outer covering was white washed after it had dried. The interior was painted.

Cyril's house was completed in 1903 and the family must have been pleased to move into it. Certainly it was a great improvement over the bordeio.

The three winters and two summers spent in the bordeio were trying but it had been worth the wait.



Completely built by hand with tools brought with them from the Ukraine, the new house was built after the same style as the peasant homes of the Ukraine. Constructed from hand hewn logs and packed with clay (chinking);

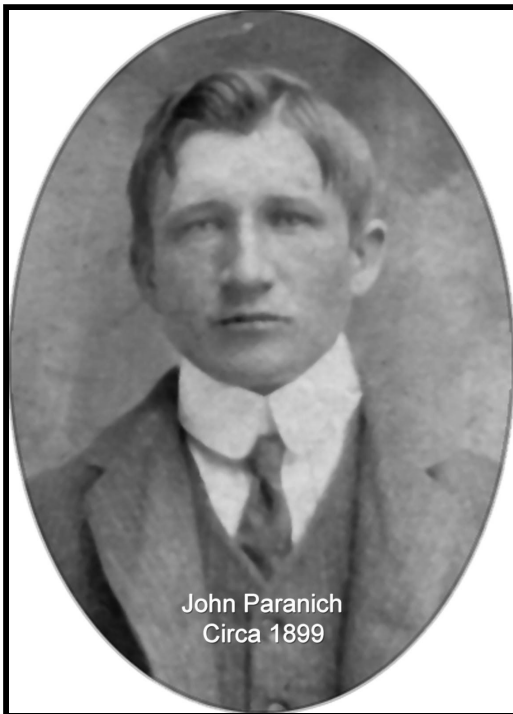
it had a whitewash coating overtop the dried clay. The house measured 48 feet by 16 feet wide. The roof was made of tightly woven rye straw and was relatively water repellent. It had three rooms and an attic. One room was Cyril and Julia's bedroom; about half the house was dedicated to the kitchen and an eating area. There was a wood stove for cooking and heat. The third room served as a sitting room and second bedroom. It had a wood plank floor, walls and ceiling and glass windows. Inside the front door was a ladder that led to the attic. The front porch was open with a wooden shingled overhanging roof and a railing. Light was supplied by the windows and lanterns; water was supplied from the well.

The homestead papers listed the value of this home as \$250 in 1904. It must have had a lot more personal value to each family member when you consider the amount of labor that went into it. Cyril's house would stand on this site and serve as his home for many years. It was still standing and functional at the time of his death in 1945 and for some time after. This house was home for most of Cyril's sons with the exception of John and three generations of the Paranicz family. The home would later be passed onto his son Eugene. Mary Pitlar, Eugene's daughter would grow up in this home.

According to Cyril's homestead records, by 1904, Cyril had also built a chicken coop, a cattle shed, a granary and a flour mill. He had increased his herd to 7 head of cattle, and 3 horses. He had 15 acres of land under cultivation. They had dug a well by hand and fenced off 80 acres.

In 1904, he was granted title to his land and was declared a naturalized citizen by the Supreme Court of Canada (Northwest Territories). Because of the way citizenship worked in 1904, this automatically bestowed citizenship upon all of his minor children. This included Klem, Walter, Anton, Eugene and Zenow. John would have to seek his

own naturalization at another time. Citizenship would not be bestowed upon Julia for at this time in history she was considered a non person.



It becomes apparent by examining the documentation, that most of the field work was done by hand as the Paranicz family only had two pieces of equipment...a horse drawn plough and a wagon. Everything else was done by hand or with the use of horses as was norm with most homesteaders. The horse was definitely a necessity in the early years. Few things were accomplished without them.

Tractors had not yet come into their own, though there were a few steam driven tractors in existence. The cutting and clearing of trees and stumping, clearing the rocks, and seeding all had to be done by hand and with the use of horses. Cutting the crop and bundling it up to dry before the threshing crews came around was completely hand done.

Cyril's family managed to clear an average of 3.3 acres per year up to 1904. In 1905, Cyril purchased a set of drag harrows for \$15, one and a half times the cost of his homestead. They would not purchase any new equipment until 1910 after Julia had passed away.

In 1907, Oleskow School was built in the area. This required the co-operative effort of the farmers in the area. Logs had to be hauled in and the building constructed. Equipment such as desks had to be built or purchased. A stove was purchased and a teacher hired. The local Ukrainian farmers wanted the instruction to be in Ukrainian but the new Alberta government stepped in and required all courses to be taught in English. A few of the Paranicz children would attend this school but not for long. As they grew older, Cyril felt they were needed on the farm to work the fields. John was busy with his own farm and family and Klem was just striking out on his own. Cyril saw to it that his children that were living at home could at least read and write Ukrainian. John's children however would attend school as much as they possibly could. John wanted his children to be educated and to find good jobs.

Family stories relate that John left Cyril's homestead after he filed for his own land. Again, this is not quite correct. The homestead records, that John filed, indicate that he stayed at Cyril's homestead until 1903 when Cyril's house was finally completed. He did do improvements on his land during this time and had a chance to build his own home consisting of two rooms. By helping Cyril build his home first, John had delayed the proving of his homestead by three years. The average time to prove out a homestead was



four years. John would not receive title to his land until 1907. Once tile was received for his land John became a full citizen of Canada.

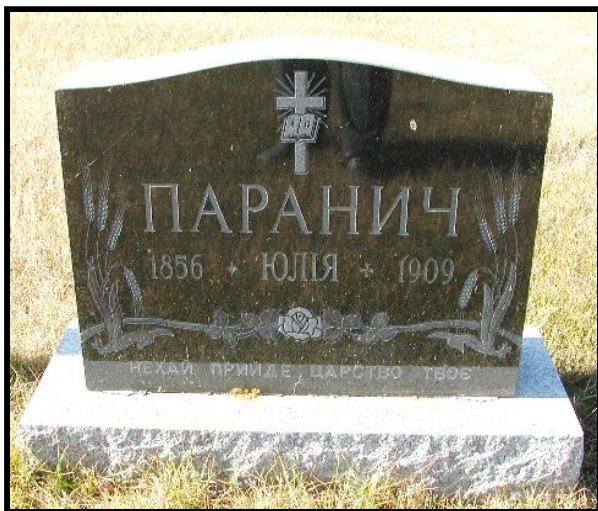
## Mundare

According to most resources the village (later became a town) of Mundaire (original spelling later shortened to Mundare) was established in 1904. The history book "Memories of Mundare" relates that the town was named after the first railway stationmaster, a Mister Mundare. This seems at first glance to make sense but since the railway came through at a much later time (1906) it is more likely that it was named after the catholic missionary Father Mundaire who worked in the area. In 1902, the Ukrainian Catholic Church sent missionaries to open a church in the area. The first Basilican priest, Father Filas, opened a new church in the Mundare area in 1903. On July 4, 1904 Father Filas was appointed Superior General for the Basilican Order of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Canada. Father Filas was reassigned to the Church head office in Winnipeg but the church he initially built (The Church of St. Peter and St. Paul) would later feature prominently in the Paranicz family.

## The death of Julia (Dunajewski) Paranicz

Though there is no actual record of Julia's death, it is suspected her passing was a result of the hard lifestyle and harsh living conditions. It is highly probable that Julia died as a result of TB as opposed to some type of cancer or heart condition. It seems fruitless to speculate upon the cause of her death however for she could have died from almost anything considering that most antibiotics were none existent at the time. A bad case of influenza or a simple intestinal infection could also be responsible. Whatever she died from, it seems apparent that she was sick for some time and both Cyril and Julia

appeared to be aware that she was extremely ill... if not dying. There is no proof or even a family story that relates to a cause of death but whatever it was it did not seem to be contagious. The family stories relate that in her waning years, she taught all the children, Klem in particular, to prepare food and perform numerous other household tasks.



We can definitely say that Julia passed away in 1907 or early 1908, although her headstone reads 1909. This conflict of Julia's date of death is most likely a result of placing the stone at a much later time. This was a common problem due

to lack of funds and the failing of human memory amongst many homesteaders. Julia is



shown as being alive in the census of July, 1906. In residence with her and Cyril are their five children still living at home. Cyril remarried on July 28, 1908, to Anna Czapelska (actual spelling on the marriage record). Logic therefore dictates that she passed away sometime before Cyril remarried. This record of marriage is available to all at the Provincial Archives of Alberta. Julia is interred at the cemetery of St. Peter and St. Paul at Mundare, Alberta beside Cyril.

By the time Cyril had reached the age of 59 in 1910 he had moved his family to Canada, built a new home and life, buried his first wife, remarried and started to purchase new equipment. A new mower and rake, (horse drawn of course) cost him \$147 in 1909. It was purchased on payments from International Harvester.

\$56.<sup>00</sup> Vegreville, Alta, Aug 5 1909  
(Town) (Prov.) (Date)

On or before the first day of November 1910, for value received, I promise to pay to the International Harvester Company of America  
(A Corporation organized and existing under the laws of the state of Wisconsin)

in order, the sum of Fifty six DOLLARS,  
with interest from the date hereof until maturity at 10 per cent per annum and  
At 10 per cent per annum after maturity until paid.

Given on account of price of 2 no. 10 ft 106 Binder  
The property in and the title to the goods above mentioned, which I hereby agree to buy, shall remain in the Company, and shall not pass to me until full payment of the price thereof, and all obligations given as security therefore.

If I attempt to sell the undermentioned land which I own and upon which I have charged the payment of this note and interest or if I make default in payment of this note or any other note or obligation given on account of the said price, or if the Company shall deem it necessary, the whole amount of the said price and interest thereon and all obligations and notes given therefor shall forthwith become due and payable and the said Company may forthwith, without making presentment or demand take action against me therefor, either before or after taking judgment against me, in addition to all other remedies it may have, retake possession of the said goods and sell the same at private sale or public auction for the said price and interest, the proceeds, less expenses, to be applied on the debt or judgment as the case may be, all of which shall be without prejudice to the rights of the said Company to collect the balance remaining unpaid upon the said debt or judgment therefor, which balance I agree to pay forthwith and for which action may be taken against me by the said Company, and I expressly agree that the taking of a judgment by the said Company against me for the said price and interest shall not in any way affect their rights to proceed under any or all of the covenants herein contained. I agree that the said goods shall be at my risk as to damage or destruction from any cause and I will pay the said price therefor and interest thereon and all obligations given therefor notwithstanding that the said goods may become damaged or destroyed.

The land above referred to and which I own is... Sec. No. 24 Township No. 2 Range No. 2 in the Province of...  
(Insert what part of section)

Post Office... Vegreville (Town) (Province)

SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED in the presence of  
(Witness to Signature)

Fill out all blank spaces except Number. All Signatures must be witnessed. If name is foreign or illegible, write it plainly in margin.

EDMONTON NUMBER 26254 Year 1909  
[REFER TO THIS NUMBER AND YEAR]

RENEWED

Cyriel Parancich

Copy of receipt for binder bought by Cyryl Parancicz (note the signature)

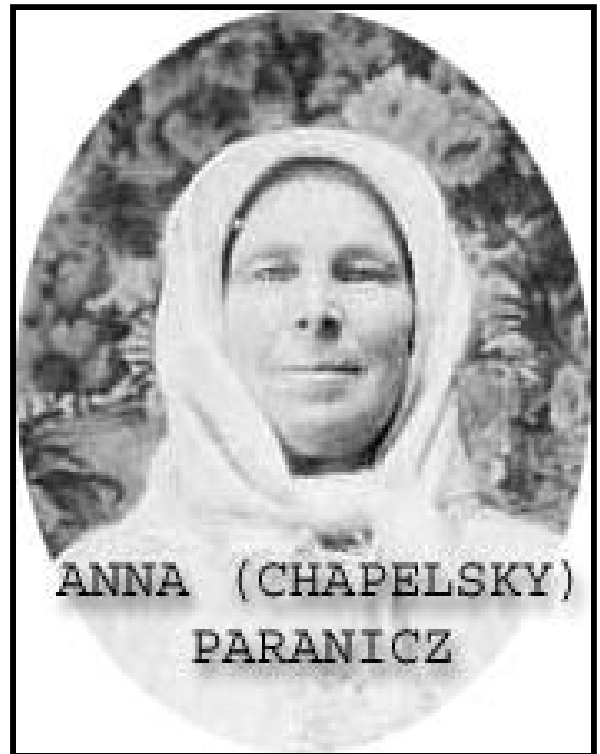
Anna (Pich-Chapelski) Parancich

Anna Czapelska (actual spelling on the legal documents), Cyril's second wife, deserves mention here. In all the records I have come upon she seems to be all but ignored. She was married to Cyril for 26 years and in my point of view deserves mention. Though she was related to the Parancicz family only by marriage, she was certainly was a huge contributing factor to the success of the original family farm and stepped into Julia's shoes as a mother, wife, and grandmother.

According to the 1906 census, Anna Czapelska's closest post office was at the town of Warwick, about 13 north of Vegreville on highway 857. One is lead to wonder just how she met Cyril remembering that Cyril lived south of Mundare about 3 miles. That would put approximately 20 miles between their individual residences. Today this would not seem to be such a great distance but back then, there were few phones and the most

common mode of travel was either by horse or walking. It is possible that they met through mutual acquaintances in Vegreville; or perhaps by word of mouth through the church community.

Anna helped to raise Walter, Eugene, Zenowy, and Anton as well as her own three children that she brought into the marriage and is owed respect for at least that. She took on the role of grandmother to all of the grandchildren as well, and at times it was probably very tiring and overwhelming. She remained Cyril's wife until she died on Dec 13, 1934.



According to family stories, when she first met Cyril she had been barely surviving and supporting herself and her children by selling Seneca roots they had dug up. Many sources say this was the case but the homestead documents show that the farm she resided on was as productive as any other during this time.

In 1886 the federal government established the Torrens land registration system by means of the Territories Real Property Act. This simplified homestead registration but removed the dower rights of women that would have previously had claim to a portion of the property owned by their spouse. Dower rights were the traditional protection against poverty for a widow upon the death of her husband. With the creation of this act, women who lived on the prairies were left destitute if their spouse had mortgaged the property without their knowledge, speculated on property, lost it to bankruptcy or willed the property to someone without making provision for her. It was not uncommon for men to sell the property and abandon their families, as well. Women had no legal recourse from 1886 to 1910 and were completely at the mercy of their spouse under Prairie Law. In 1910, thanks to Emily Murphy, the Married Women's Relief Act came into effect. This act was unfortunately not much better but it did provide some protection. It did not protect the woman while her husband was alive but if he passed away she could apply for relief through the courts providing that he had provided less to her in his will than if he had died without a will.

Women were not legally considered persons and did not yet have the right to vote, let alone own land unless it was inherited. It was not common place to see women have land transferred to them on the death of their husbands.

Semko (Anna's first husband) came to Canada before he brought his family over. I show that he owned a homestead at NW 24 53 14 W 4 that he abandoned in 1901. In 1902, he purchased the second homestead which he brought his family to after they came over at

SW 28 53 13 W4. Semko had been in Canada for some time and this is apparent because he was already a naturalized citizen upon application for his second homestead. Semko built a log home for his family that measured 18 x 36 ft. Shortly after or before the birth of his last child, Ann, he went to Edmonton to work. I am in possession of a document that confirms his death on or around Sept 15, 1903 in the City of Edmonton. He apparently left a will because the government had no problem with transferring the land into Anna Czpelska's name.

The same stories that tell us Anna struggled to survive without her husband's help also mention that she sold the homestead prior to marrying Cyril. The homestead documents reveal that she did not receive the title to Semko's homestead until shortly before she married Cyril and it was probably at this time that she sold the farm and distributed the money amongst her children.

The 1906 census revealed that she owned 2 horses, 2 milk cows, 5 head of beef cattle and 10 hogs. Anna probably did have a difficult time and was no doubt very lonely after the disappearance of her husband Semko, but she did have the help of her sons, 18 year old Nick Czpelska and 16 year old John Czpelska. They would later change their name to Chapelski.

Her farm grew from 1902 on and in 1907 she was planting 20 acres of cleared land. She had 7 head of cattle, one horse and 4 hogs. She had fenced a mile of land, built a stable, a granary and dug a well. In short, she proved out the homestead with the help of her sons, as well as any man probably could have.

One would think that Cyril and Anna's was more a marriage of convenience than anything. This was not an uncommon practice in those days. Anna was having a rough time before their marriage; Cyril was without a mother for his children. Eventually, her daughter Ann would marry Lodic (William), Cyril's son.

Anna took on the duties of tending the home and garden. She sold eggs, butter, cheese and produce in Vegreville for many years. Joe Paranich, John's son, recalled hitching up a team regularly and driving her around Vegreville to sell her wares. Olga Osinchuk also made this trip with her a number of times.

Anna contributed considerable sums to the farm through these sales. In 1918 alone her off-farm sales accounted for \$147 according to Cyril's 1918 income tax.



It seems that Anna Czpelska had some knowledge of the English language even though her granddaughter, Olga Osinchuk related that she could not speak English. She knew enough to negotiate pricing while selling her wares and was able to talk with the census takers in 1906. Let's not forget that the homestead was in her name. I have no doubt that she was not fluent in the English written language as witnessed by her "mark" signed on the homestead papers.

She could however get by quite well when it was required and probably utilized the services of an interpreter for her legal dealings. I am unsure of what exactly went on between Cyril, Anna and her son's but there does appear to have been some type of rift between them. When Anna passed away on Dec 13, 1934, at the age of 60, her sons John and Nick came to the homestead and removed her body. She is buried separately from Cyril, under the name Chapeliski, in Krasna Hora cemetery near Myrnam, Alberta. Cyril would have been 84 years of age at the time of her passing.

### John's Early Experiences

Though Cyril was initially upset about John purchasing land next to his, it would seem that they had worked out their problems to some degree. John, it seems, was helpful and kept on track with both his father's homestead and his own land. Cyril, would later visit his son's farm frequently.

By 1904, John had just begun his journey towards ownership. In order to prove out the homestead you had to live on the land for at least three years and be able to show reasonable improvements on it.

John had built a house according to his homestead records that was 20 x 16 feet, but he was not in residence there, so in 1903 after the finishing of Cyril's house he moved onto his land and began farming in earnest. In 1903, he cleared and planted 2 acres of land. He must have worked quite hard for by 1907, with the help of his wife Victoria, he had 15 acres of land cleared and 12 acres in crop.

He also had built a house, a stable, a chicken coop and a granary (18 x 12 ft), dug a well, put up 3/4 of a mile of fence and proved out his homestead. He received title to his land January 28, 1907.

Shortly after he moved onto his land, John began thinking about marriage. Family stories relate that he was interested in a young lady that had come to Canada and was staying with the Lemiski family, his friends and neighbors. Victoria Bandura was working in Vegreville at the hotel and John, being very shy, "just happened" to be passing by when she had come outside. They were married on February 2, 1904.

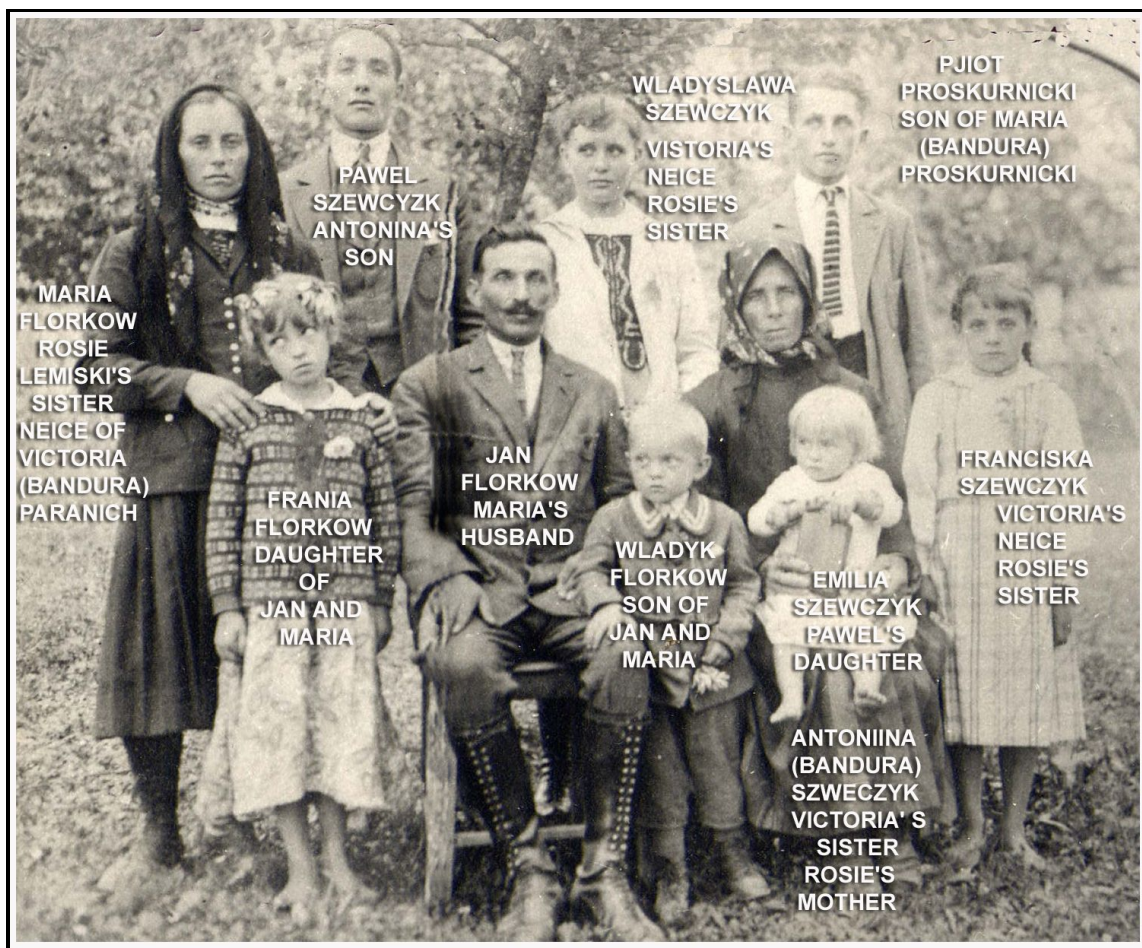


## The Family Of Victoria Bandura



Victoria had left her family and came to Canada searching for a new life. She was the daughter of Pjotr (Peter) Bandura and Rosalia (Juzyk) Bandura. Victoria had a large family back in the Ukraine. There is a family story that tells of her brother Jan Bandura, who was said to have been tortured in front of his family by the Russian army and then taken away. He never returned. He was married to Anna (Cebulka) Bandura when that happened and she assumed he was dead.

Her other siblings included Katarzyna (Bandura) Pruchniak married to Andrzej Pruchniak, Maria (Bandura) Proskurnicki married to Jan Proskurnicki, and Karolina (Bandura) Podruczny married to Jan Podruczny. See the adjoining pictures.





There seems to be some question as to the relationship between Rosie Lemiski and Victoria. Rosie is the daughter of Antonia, Victoria's sister. She was sponsored by and eventually married into the Lemiski family. She is Victoria's niece.

John and Victoria would have many children, the first born being Louise. Louise was born in 1906. We find them living in a separate residence from Cyril on John's new residence at Beaver Lake...according to the 1906 census. In 1908, they would have a second child Leonard. Leonard would live only ten months. The record of death for Leonard indicates that he passed away on Oct 20, 1908. Stories tell us that he died from pneumonia and dehydration. Leonard is buried in the cemetery of St. Peter and St. Paul Church.



It was commonly thought that Leonard was the first born child. The previously mentioned research indicates that he was not. The record of death clearly indicates this and can be found at the Provincial Archives. He was, however, the first born male child. How this error occurred has been lost over time. His gravestone reads 1905 and again this is an error. The picture to the left was taken in 1908. Cyril stands in the back. Julia is conspicuously absent (passed away); nor is Anna Chapelski present (not yet married). The little boy on Victoria's knee was commonly thought to be Peter. Louise is obviously two to three years old and Peter was 6 years younger than Louise. Logic then dictates that this little boy is Leonard; this is the only known picture of him.

The early years on John's farm were hard. The weather didn't help. The snows came early in Aug and September and the springs came late. Historical weather records show that the snow was still coming down in late May. John worked in mundane as a blacksmith for awhile and it is here that he lost an eye to a hot piece of metal. This probably ended his working as a blacksmith.

The little two room house in which they lived would have to grow quickly over the years. They would have thirteen children Louise, Leonard, Peter, Anna, Albina, Veronica, Helen, Winifred, Joseph, Cecil, Edward, Michael, and Joan. Four of these children, would die quite young.

The 1906 census shows that he had only 2 milk cows, and 5 hogs. His final homestead documents reveal that in 1907, his herd had increased to six head of cattle and he then had two hogs. Family stories tell us that they were given some chickens as a wedding gift. There is no record of them having horses on the census and on the homestead

records. It is possible that they shared the use of Cyril's horses for awhile until they could purchase their own.

John seems to have been the first of the Paranicz offspring to change the spelling of his name. Although he spells his name the traditional way on both the 1906 census and on his homestead documents for 1907, on the record of death for his first born son Leonard he spells his name "Paranich" for the first time. His brothers would all follow suit in the future and the family name would eventually evolve into 3 new spellings of the original root name.

### *Klem's Homestead*

In 1906, John's brother Klem, was coming of age and in April, Cyril would took him East to Innisfree where Klem was to file for a homestead that was previously owned and abandoned by Gilbert Carbo in 1905.



Klem was fortunate to find a homestead that already had a small sod house (10 x14) already built and a well dug. The abandonment papers state that it was a farm that "had too many rocks and sloughs to farm", although Klem states that the land had 150 acres of useful land.

Access was granted to his land on April 17, 1906. He spent some time at home still; we show him from the 1906 July census still living at Cyril's homestead and he openly states on his homestead papers that he spent time helping his father in Beaver Lake. He stayed at home in Beaver Lake with the rest of the family until April 1, 1907. Klem would also spend his winters in Beaver Lake for the next three years.

He initially lived in a tent in 1907, so one can assume that the sod home built in 1905 was no longer fit to live in. He built a log home that year. He spent the summers working on his land and the winters at Beaver Lake with his father Cyril, until the spring of 1910.

Klem soon found work with the Northern Alberta Railroad laying the track around Innisfree as the railroad wound its northern route to Vegreville and on to Edmonton. He had little means at first to farm and working away from his homestead during the week probably provided the extra income he needed to keep body and soul together as well as purchase the items required to start up.

While working away from home Klem must have found it difficult to clear his land for he only managed to clear one acre in 1907 and 1908. According to Klem's homestead documents, in the summer of 1909, a wildfire erupted in the area. Klem was away at work and came home to find that it had destroyed everything... buildings, animals, crop and all the fencing he had done. This must have been devastating for the young man and it is to his credit that the following year he set about farming at a much higher pace. Klem applied to the government in 1909 for the title to his land and was turned down. He was allowed, due to extenuating circumstances to continue living on his land.

As it turned out, the fire may well have been a blessing in disguise. It seems that his land was cleared quite effectively by the fire. Klem met and married Kathryn Beloner in 1910 and with the help of his wife (and most likely the help of some neighbors and the fire) they were able to clear 10 acres that year and planted 3. In 1911, Kathryn would bear Klem a son, Michael. They planted 13 acres and cleared an additional 10 acres in 1911. By 1912, against very steep odds and with a growing family, Klem was planting 20 acres and had finally had proved out his homestead.

His homestead papers show that he had built a second log home, 13 x 19 ft, a new stable made from logs with a sod roof, a new log granary, dug a new well, and fenced a mile and a half of his land off. They had 2 oxen and 3 head of cattle. All this was done within a two year period and is an incredible amount of work for two people. It is for this reason that the assumption of additional help is made.

Title to his land was granted Nov 28, 1912.

Well now, that brings us up to 1912. Julia has passed away. Cyril has remarried to Anna Czapelska and become a citizen of Canada. John has married Victoria and begun their life on the farm beside Cyril's property. John is also now a Canadian Citizen. They had already lost one child and had a little girl, Louise and a new baby Peter. Klem has finally received title to his land after surviving the prairie fire and marrying Kathryn. They have a child named Mike. The story of the other four sons William, Anton, Eugene, and Zenowy was just beginning. They would soon start to find their own way in the new world but that is, as they say, but another story for another day.

Marvin Paranych







### Chapter 3 - Settling In -1910-1920

The next decade would prove to be extremely challenging for the Paranicz family as it would be for most Ukrainian-Canadian immigrants. Cyril's sons would all start to seek out the opportunities Canada would offer them. Not unlike the rest of the immigrant population, they would face adversity, prejudice and tough financial situations.

Many related stories that I have come across depict life as extremely brutal or at the very least a difficult exercise in survival. Though I do not doubt the strength of these stories it is important that we keep historical perspective in mind. Life was difficult. It was tough. Not only for those that came from the Ukraine but also for any settler to early Alberta.



Alberta itself was only five years old in 1910. Prior to that, Edmonton and Vegreville were part of the Northwest Territories. People were flooding into Alberta to homestead and to build a new life. Cities were growing at an astonishing rate.

Think about a time when there were no railways around Vegreville, and the roads were mere trails through the bush. Most of what we as Canadians experience today, did not exist. The precursor for the internet, the telegraph, did exist and followed the railroads. Telephones would soon follow and in fact were now in the cities of Canada quite extensively and in those early years had reached Edmonton.

Railroads to Edmonton ran through Calgary at the time. Soon the NAR would build a link from Regina to Edmonton via Lloydminster. Television and its precursor radio was yet to be invented. Electrical power and all the things we associate with its use such as washing machines and refrigerators did exist but were luxuries. Indoor plumbing was almost nonexistent. Gas or oil heating had not yet found its

niche, though in the cities gas lighting was available for street lights. Even in the city many houses were still heated with wood or coal.

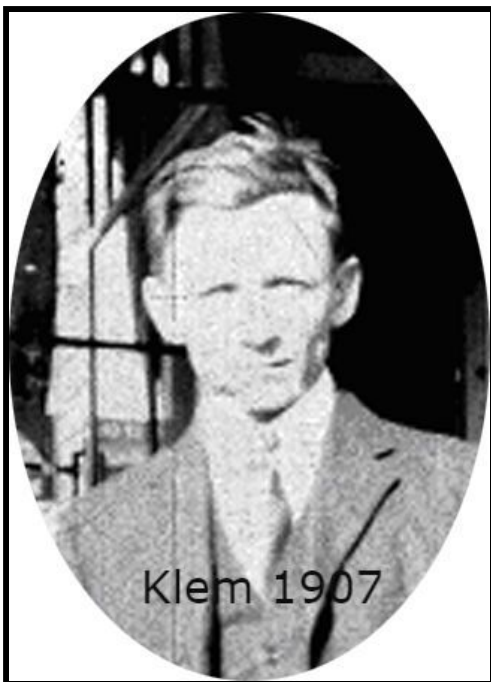
Almost the whole world would transform over the next five decades. Men would very soon begin the use of the motorcar and flying would soon become possible. Edison, Bell, and the Wright Brothers were on the way to becoming household words.

Everyone who settled in early Alberta were faced with the same need to be self-sufficient. Need a place to live? Shelter for your family? You had to build it. Food to feed your family? Hunting, fishing and gardening were more than a mere hobby, they were basic to survival. Clothing consisted of whatever you could make, very little was purchased. How with all this could you expect to see such fast paced change take place? It was, however and people slowly adapted to this new life.

So life in general was hard without a doubt and Ukrainians had no monopoly on this situation. Everyone was in the same boat. If anything Ukrainian settlers probably had an advantage over many other nationalities in that they were used to getting by on very little in the old country. Their lot was very much improved once they had actually settled into farming and were realizing a profit however small it might have been. It speaks to the type of people they were; a people of faith, hope and perseverance.

In the early 1900's, the forces that were to lead the world into the First World War were beginning to boil up and all the events were being watched by nations around the world very closely. All Galician people's whether Ukrainian or not, were about to be deeply affected by the ripples that were being felt around the world. Many immigrants could not find work simply because they were Ukrainian, Polish, Austrian, or German.

With work being as valued as it was, this shortage proved to be extremely difficult, even for the hardiest of immigrants. Those that did not have land would spend much time seeking employment just to keep body and soul together. Those with land tried to supplement their income on the farm with outside work, or selling produce for the extra income, when it was available.



Klem 1907

All people of Austrian-Hungarian origins fell under suspicion and would have their Canadian citizenship revoked when the war finally broke out in 1914. When England declared war on Austria, Canada as a member the British Commonwealth, also stepped into the melee. Canadian homesteaders of Austrian origin were still allowed to remain on their land and receive title but were not allowed to vote, work at a government job or hold political office.

Despite this almost 10,000 immigrants from the Austrian Hungarian Empire joined the Canadian Expeditionary Forces during the First World War to fight for and defend their adopted country. One would wonder if this was because of true loyalty based upon a new sense of freedom they achieved upon emigrating,

animosity directed at the Austrian Hungarian empire and their former feudal system, or a simple means of room and board for those that were having such a difficult time

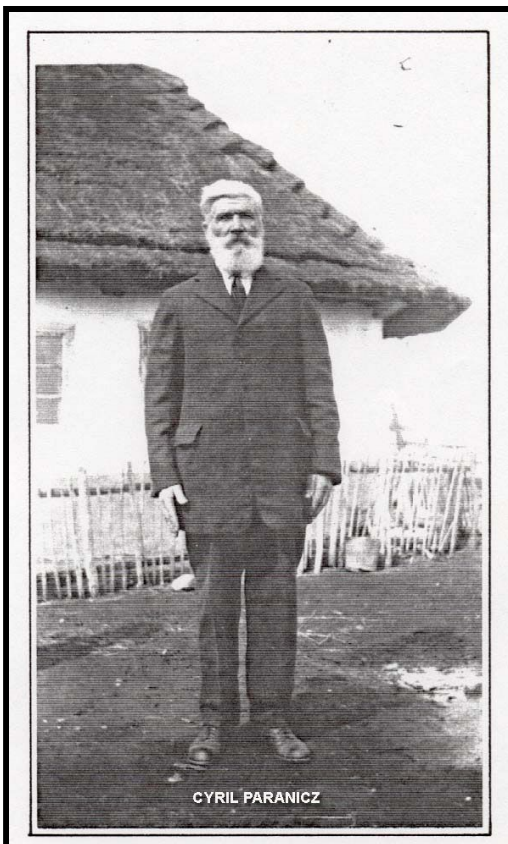


surviving. Cyril's children did not participate in this military action.

It was during this time that it was illegal to speak Ukrainian, German, or any language associated with the Austrian-Hungarian Empire in public. Public events that involved people of Austrian Hungarian roots were supervised by the R.C.M.P. to ensure they adhered to this new law. Those that could not speak English had to keep quiet in public for fear of incarceration. Many refused to abide by these rules and had their rights revoked after they had worked so hard to attain them. Some fell under suspicion and were relocated to internment camps.

The few that could speak English dared not to speak up, remembering the fearsome tyranny of the old country and the land barons. Shadows from the old world haunted their lives. They endured insults and slights from English speaking people almost daily. Despite their efforts to retain their language and culture at home, their children had begun to speak the language of their perceived oppressors. The world must have seemed a very cold and dark place indeed.

The news from the Ukraine was even worse, as well. Their original homeland fared poorly. Russia cut off food supplies to the Ukraine. Thousands of the peasants starved to death. Many were shot on site or dragged away to the feared Russian gulags. Their homes were burned and crops destroyed. Their animals were slaughtered to feed the ever hungry Russian war machine. By the time the war was over the Ukraine was under total Russian control. Death, disease, and malnutrition took its toll on the peasant population.



John Paranicz's spouse, Victoria Bandura, lost a brother, Jan, to the Russian soldiers. The story says that he was dragged from his home and tortured in front of his children and wife before he was taken away, never to return. His spouse, Anna, assumed that he had been shot. Stories such as these were not uncommon during the war and bear the mark of truth when compared to historical accounts. These were the actions that disheartened and devastated many emotionally.

Unable to find work, unwilling to enlist as soldiers, it was about 1915 when Anton and William, as the story goes, went to Stettler in search of work. Upon finding none they walked home almost 100 miles. Though at first glance this may seem implausible it rings somewhat of the truth. There was no public transportation that was affordable for someone out of work. Walking is what you did. William was not married and Anton was newly married to Michalina.



By 1916, Cyril, John and Klem had settled into their homesteads. Anton had married his first wife, Michalena Ewasiuk and they were, for a short time, living with Cyril and Anna. Klem had found outside work and was employed working on the High Level bridge in Edmonton. Two of Cyril's other son's, William and Anton would spend much time seeking work. Finally Walter found a job working for the railroad in Saskatchewan. Working on local farms during harvest was popular amongst the young men in the Mundare community, Eugene himself found work this way. Lack of education created a difficulty that many could not overcome and some just remained on the farm.

Schooling was considered a luxury. Anton, for instance, was educated to only to grade three over in the Ukraine. When he moved to Canada with his family he spent about two weeks in school at Oleskow School. The same could be said for Walter. He was needed to help on the farm. Eugene attended school only in the summer as did many young men.

But the lack of education did not mean a lack of intelligence when you think about the skills the Paranicz boys exhibited. They all seemed to have a working knowledge of farming and carpentry. Hunting, trapping, and fishing lead some into tanning and taxidermy. Anton was a shoemaker and eventually ran a store and harness repair shop, while William was a skilled blacksmith. John as well had blacksmith skills which unfortunately would cost him an eye. None of Cyril's children were afraid of hard work. Most had hobbies that supplemented their income such as trapping and fishing.

Zenowy, as a young boy, spent some time travelling around the area with his father Cyril, who was attending various churches as a cantor. Zenowy would also often serve as the altar boy at these services. He left home in 1916 and went to work as a farm labourer for a farmer about 5 miles south of Cyril's farm. I am unaware of whether he had a disagreement with Cyril but I also know that for a period of time Zenowy lived with his brother John and his wife Victoria, my grandparents.

Zenowy was very industrious, He went to work in the coal mines of Alberta in 1917. This would not last long. Zenowy and Walter Paranych, at one point shared a timber permit for some Crown Land in 1918 around Mundare and harvested the lumber for sale.

In 1919, after five years of withdrawal of their citizenship rights and one year after the war had ended, the Ukrainians lobbied the government for the reinstatement of their citizenship rights. They did this independent of the other nationalities from the Austrian Empire. Their petition offered to help any returning veterans who were planning to farm.

As Gandhi once said "You cannot shake hands with a closed fist". The Ukrainian

community as a whole seemed to realize this and many set aside the hard feelings that they had to help others. This open handed offer of friendship and assistance to veterans of the war won the Ukrainians reinstatement as full citizens of Canada.

Many, however, would retain deep seated feelings of bitterness and resentment and were determined to stay amongst themselves, struggled to preserve their culture and would only marry within their own nationality. Some would forgive but they would never forget the treatment they were handed by their adopted country and its English speaking countrymen.



But, the First World War also brought something else even more ominous to the world....disease and in particular, The Spanish Flu. The soldiers came home and with them they brought the flu. This virulent and pandemic strain of the flu would sweep across the world and before it was done it would kill more people than the war itself had.

Particularly susceptible to the flu were young children and elderly individuals. Antibiotics were virtually unknown during this time. The primary drugs available were sulfa-drugs. At best these worked but took a very long time to have any effect. Unfortunately the flu was extremely fast acting and this remained the primary dilemma.

Authorities in Alberta decided to resort to extreme measures to get things under control. They placed many communities under quarantine. Schools were closed and any public event that would have gathered people together was discouraged.

Still the flu was rampant. Churches shut down temporarily and became hospitals when the hospitals themselves overflowed. Community halls also became makeshift hospitals. Bed linens were boiled. Whole families and complete communities were isolated in an attempt to control the spread of influenza. Nothing seemed able to stop this indiscriminate killer. This went on for almost four years.

The Paranych family would be directly affected by the disease. John Paranych, himself would bury three daughters, Albina and Veronica and Anna, about six months apart. Klem would bury his first born son, Michael and although the cause of death is not recorded as the flu, he definitely passed away during this time and it would seem to be the logical conclusion to draw that he died from the flu.

Imagine suffering such a loss! Working hard every day to give your family a better life

and be unable to help relatives from back home. Couple this with the devastating loss of your own children and the feeling of losing the culture you tried so hard to maintain and you may gain a small inkling of what it must have been like. John and Victoria would eventually have 13 children, but by 1922 four would die as children. Klem and Rosalia had 12 children; one died as a child. Eugene, still a young man was not yet married.

So the Paranicz family would be no stranger to tragedy much like the rest of the Ukrainian community. Despite all the hardship and despair, all of Cyril's children had developed very strong senses of family. Between the six sons and their spouses they were helping to create the first generation of Ukrainian Canadian citizens.

So now, we are at 1920, Anton is newly married. Walter has come back from working on the railroad in Saskatchewan for 16 cents an hour. Walter and Anton had already bought a farm and unable to make payments, they lost it to the bank.

They would both pursue other ways to make a living. Anton moved to Chipman By 1920, Anton and his wife Michalena had three children. Klem was married to Katherine and after the prairie fire they had managed to get their farm "proved out" and now had six children. One child Michael had died at the age of two years. John and Victoria were farming now full time, John was not doing blacksmith work now after losing an eye. They had eight children by now, only two had passed away, Leonard and Albina.

Walter and Zenowy had made some money selling timber. Zenowy was partner with Michael Stashyn from Chipman and they were hauling freight from the railroad.

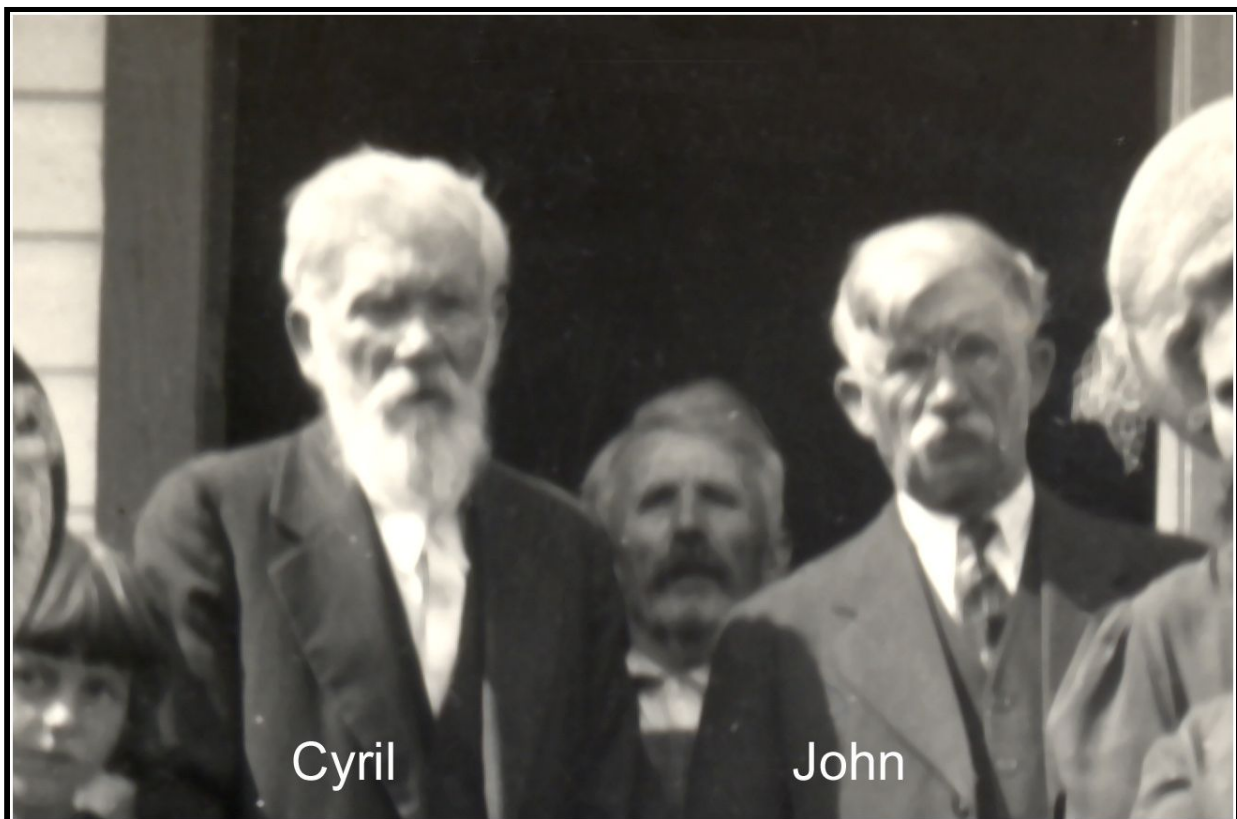
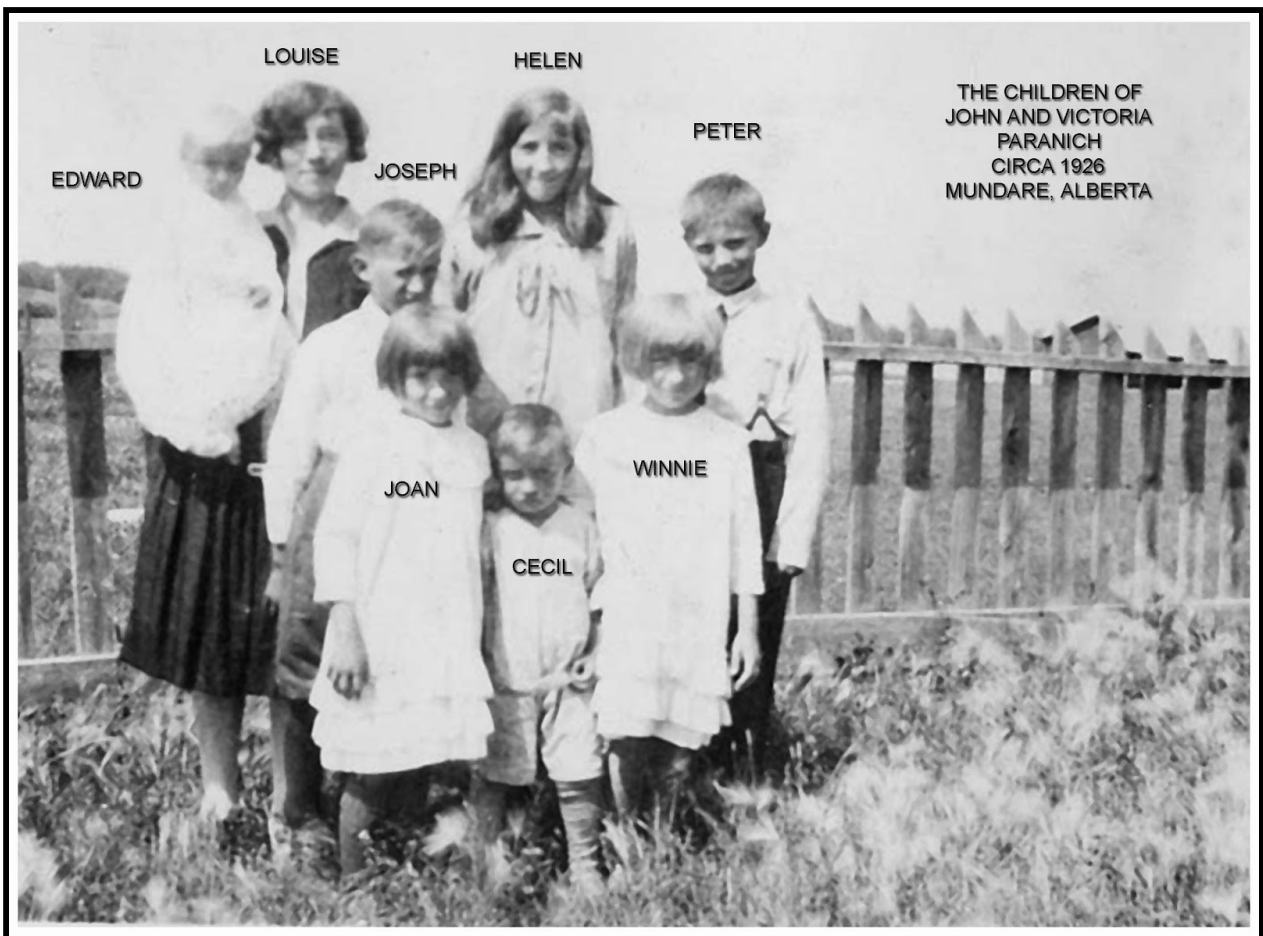
Walter has just bought another farm just south of where Cyril lived. Eugene was working in the area as a farm hand and helping his father, and his brother John with farm work, as well.

The world was developing all around them. The war was over, the flu was slowing down. Roads and highways were built at what must have seemed an astonishing rate. Oil had been found in the Turner Valley by Calgary. Air cargo was not yet possible but it would be soon. Radio was now becoming available and news travelled faster. The economy was starting to churn at a pace the world had never before seen. The twenties were set to roar.

Not just the Paranich family, but the whole world, would soon start to see and experience technological wonders and changes that moved so fast and speculation running so rampant they would see the world pushed to the brink of financial collapse and even further into war. And so the story goes on...

Marvin Paranych





## Chapter 4- The Twenty's

West of the great divide Rocky Mountains, nestled amongst the fertile farm fields of Minburn County, lays the small town of Mundare, Alberta. The shadows of old country Ukraine loom long across the land around here and a large portion of buildings still stand today that commemorate the settlers that brought their hopes and dreams to this rolling countryside.



Few people are alive today that can remember when the horse was more prevalent than



Lodik (William) and Annie Paranich  
Aug 7, 1921

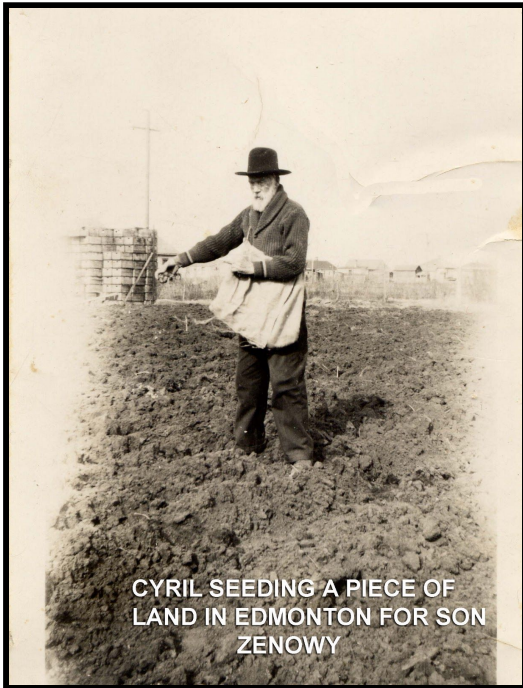
the car. Many have since passed on; soon none will be left at all. Archives and museums hold the keys to these past days and record the memories of those few that do remain. It becomes necessary to pull back these curtains of time through diligent, time consuming research in an effort to record these times.

The use of historical records and documents, family stories and photographs and a little dash of rational thinking can bring this era back to life. This is what we have endeavored to do while still maintaining the truth....

The highways that sweep past Royal Park, Mundare and Vegreville in no way resemble the roads of the 1920's. The car had arrived but still there were many people that used horses for a great deal of work. Henry Ford rolled the first model "T" off the assembly line in 1913, but cars of various types had been around for almost 50 years. The first paved road in Canada was built in 1912 in Ontario.



Lack of fueling stations and a viable road system held back progress until this time. The highways were primarily packed dirt and gravel in Alberta and most of those were rutted quite extensively.



CYRIL SEEDING A PIECE OF  
LAND IN EDMONTON FOR SON  
ZENOWY

Cyril Paranicz and Eugene his son, would use horses for all their farm work and in fact were probably as up to date as most farms of their time. Tractors would be popular soon but for now, at least for Cyril, the horse was just fine.

Living with Cyril, was the daughter of his second spouse Annie Chapelski, also called Anna. Walter, sometime in 1920 noticed this girl. He had just bought a farm about eight miles south of Mundare. It is to this farm that Walter brought his new bride in 1921. They lived in what was called a "one board" home. It was not unlike a single walled shack or what we think as a granary, but they made it their home. They insulated the walls with cardboard boxes to keep the heat in during the winter. The little pot-bellied stove glowed red on the coldest days. They didn't have much

but what they did have was a home. They lived in this home for seven years, through good and bad weather, and eventually Walter and Anna built a log home that was still standing in 1991.



Staszyn and Paranych Draying, Chipman, Alta

The First World War was over, the Spanish flu had not yet reached its peak (1918-1922). By late 1922, the fear and anxiety about the flu would begin to lessen as the number of cases diminished. John and Victoria lost two more children six months apart from the flu. Eventually the disease would run its course; but the aftermath would devastate many families. Infant and child mortality had

skyrocketed; adult mortality rose to almost match these figures. Sadly, parents buried their children without the help of the church and some children even buried their own parents. People were now just trying to get on with the business of making a living.



Prohibition was not yet here, but bootleg whisky was a big business in southern Alberta. Al Capone was a big news item of the day. The twenties had not yet begun to roar; but roar they would very soon.

Progress was everywhere. Roads were beginning to be paved, larger centers were laying the foundations of massive infrastructure including bus systems, bridges, larger buildings, paving and plumbing. Best of all there was work, lots and lots of work. Still if you were Ukrainian it did present a difficulty to find it. Most though eventually found their way into the working population. It might have required the change of their name, for example, Zenowry eventually went by Sam, Sosantos became Cecil, and Lodic changed to Walter or William.

Trucks were starting to take some of the work from the railroads which were now running alongside the roadway to Lloydminster, but the railroad still hauled most of the freight. Zenowry and his partner Michael, went from owning a draying business with horses and wagon to a trucking business to deliver cattle to the Edmonton Stockyards.

Vegreville was now a bustling commercial and farming center that had its own newspaper, "The Vegreville Observer". This would eventually be purchased by a direct descendant of John Paranych, but that would not occur for about another 70 years or so. Telephones had started to become popular but many farms were still without both phones and electrical power. "Talkies" were the primary new sources of entertainment for a night out.



Albina and Louise Paranych circa 1920  
Taken in John and Victoria's Home

Edmonton was much smaller in those days but the High Level Bridge Project was completed and joined the town of Strathcona to the City of Edmonton proper and had become South Edmonton. Another Paranych family member, Klem, found work on this project.

The Provincial Legislature was completed and the University was in the process of being built.

By 1920, John Paranych's family was still growing and there were some interesting developments occurring here as well. John and Victoria now had 5 living children, Louise born in 1906 aged 14, Peter born in 1912 aged 8 (probably named after Victoria's father), Helen born in 1915 aged 5 (named after her grandmother Helen, Cyril's mother), Anna born in 1916 aged 4, and their new baby, Joe born in 1919.

Tragedy had touched John and Victoria twice in the last ten years with what must have been the devastating losses of two children. The deceased children were: Leonard who had died in infancy at around ten months old in 1908 (this has been confirmed by research and the actual record of death can be found at the Alberta Archives) and Veronica (born circa 1912). Then, the flu took two more of their children. Albina and Anna passed away in 1922 and are buried together in the same grave.

Leonard, it is said in family stories, possibly died of dehydration but there is no information whatsoever on Veronica who passed away at six years old in 1918. It is entirely possible that Veronica's birth date is incorrect. No one seems to know if she was actually older or younger than Peter. We do know that she was not a twin.

As with most family members that passed away in those days, there were few affordable undertakers at the disposal of homesteaders, so John had to build them both simple wood caskets by hand and took on the task of digging their graves and burying them himself. For a time Zenow, John's youngest brother, as a young man had moved into John and Victoria's home. It is unknown if he had helped with the burial of Veronica, his niece.

It is difficult to imagine the depth of sadness that John and Victoria must have felt. They were not alone, however, with this experience. Klem and Katherine Paranych had also lost a child to the Spanish Flu, Michael, at the age of two. Infant and child mortality was a very



GAVIN AND LOUISE  
HENDERSON

serious problem that most settlers related as the most painful of their memories. Many were due to the Spanish Flu. The authorities of the time, to counteract the effect of the Spanish Flu, asked citizens to wear face masks in public. It did not help a great deal.



Louise Paranich, now John's oldest was fast becoming a young woman (14). She was, I am told, a very spirited young lady. Versed in both the Ukrainian language and English, she was the first of the Paranich clan to experience taking Ukrainian dance lessons in Canada. Louise took her education at the monastery in Mundare. Louise appears to have been slightly ahead of her time and a bit of a liberationist. Her thinking was probably due to one of the prominent feminist influences of her time, Emily Murphy.

She enjoyed playing the mandolin, took up skiing as a young woman and risked being disowned by her parents for marrying Gavin Henderson a non-Ukrainian man. Only eight years younger than her Uncle Eugene, she is shown in the picture on the left with Eugene on her right and Nick Kassian, a neighbor, on her left.

My Aunt Louise loved to travel and I have a series of photos of her in Jasper National

Park where she lived and worked for a time. She was also the first to marry a non-Ukrainian person, Gavin Henderson. This, in itself, displays a certain independent thinking on her behalf as it was almost unheard of at the time to marry out of your nationality or against the wishes of your family. She must have been quite persuasive as her parents accepted Gavin into the family, despite being English.



Gavin was a plumber by trade and he

and Louise would do very well and eventually they would settle into retirement in British Columbia. Louise was a working person most of her life. She enjoyed traveling, her job at the hospital in Jasper and remained close to her family despite the distant that she lived from them. Louise and Gavin did not have children.

The photos that I have of her do reveal her passion for the "finer things". She was stylish dresser and I have been told that once she got her driver's license she enjoyed driving quite fast. She especially loved her new car.

By the end of this prosperous time (1927) John and Victoria had completed their family. Victoria gave John, their last child, Michael, in 1927.



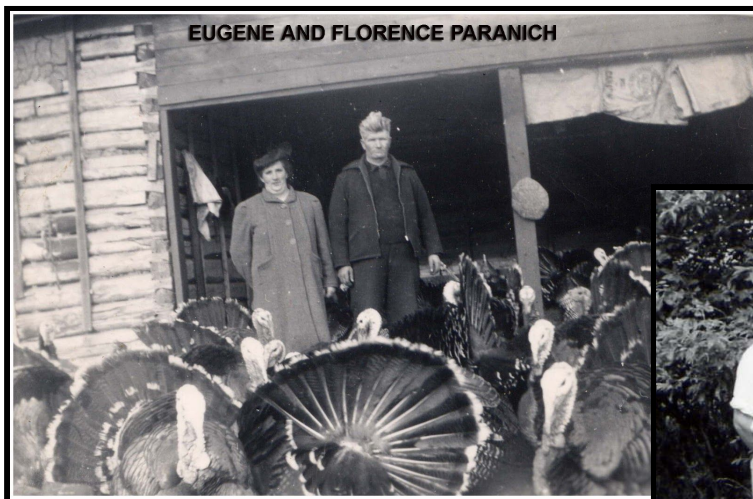


Cyril's youngest son, Eugene, was said to be a practical joker. By all accounts he enjoyed trapping and hunting when he was a young man. This pastime was common place as these hobbies often supplied extra income or food to the families of homesteaders. Eugene still had not married and for a time it was thought he would be a bachelor his whole life (according to my Aunt Helen).

The photo on the right is a good example of some of the pelts Eugene had taken while trapping and hunting. Hides like this had a good market value and supplemented the family income nicely. Eugene was the youngest of Cyril's children and appears to be in his mid-teens in this photo. He would later take over Cyril's farm.

Eugene did finally marry to Florence Zabiuk in 1934 and adopt and raise as his own, her daughter, Mary. By all accounts, Eugene was a generous and loving man, who provided a good home for Mary until she met and married Edward Pitlar.

I have to say here that it has been assumed by many family members that Cyril's home was made from sod. It was actually a log home with a clay exterior and a thatched roof. It was also whitewashed on the outside. Eventually, after Cyril had passed away (1945), the home fell into disrepair and Eugene used it as a "poultry barn" when he was raising turkeys. Below is a photo that clearly shows the logs of the home when the clay exterior had started to fall away. The home no longer stands today (2019).



Klem and Katherine were busy building their family. By 1930, their last child, Walter was born. The picture below was taken after Katherine passed away in 1954. Farming life had greatly improved and machinery was being bought by most members of the family that were farming.



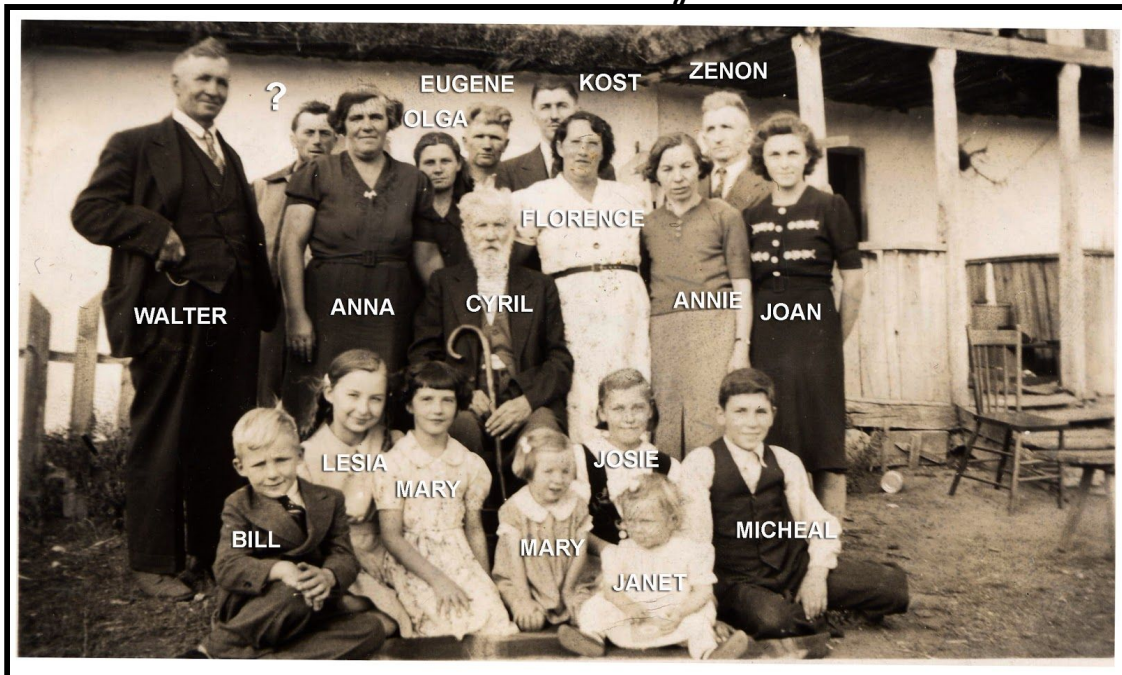
BACK ROW LEFT TO RIGHT: MYRON, ROBERT, CECIL  
SECOND ROW : JEAN, STEFFIE, KLEM, MORRIS  
THIRD ROW: ERNIE, MARY  
FRONT ROW: WALTER, ALEX

Anton's wife Michalena died at the Misericordia Hospital (now called the Edmonton General) in Edmonton. He was now running a store with his new wife Rosalie. They were married in 1925. Things were busy and they already would have had a number of children. They would have three more children during the depression years.

Walter and Anna Paranych, would only have four children that we are able to confirm. Olga was the oldest. Michael, their only son, and by 1930 Josephine. Janet was not born until 1940. This leads me to think that over the ten year gap between Josephine and Janet there may have been a few stillborn births or miscarriages. Although there is no record or even a mention of such a thing, it certainly was possible and is something genealogists watch for. They were doing well and had recently built a new home on their farm.

As the 1920's were drawing to a close, in October of 1929, the stock market crashed. The world seemed to stop quite abruptly for many people. A lot of people lost almost everything. Banks and businesses closed. Money dried up. Total losses were counted to be 30 billion dollars globally. Rampant speculation had almost caused total global financial collapse. The little villages and cities of Northern Alberta, Chipman, Vermillion, and Mundare were not exempt from the impact. Grain prices fell, loans were called in by the banks that were still open.

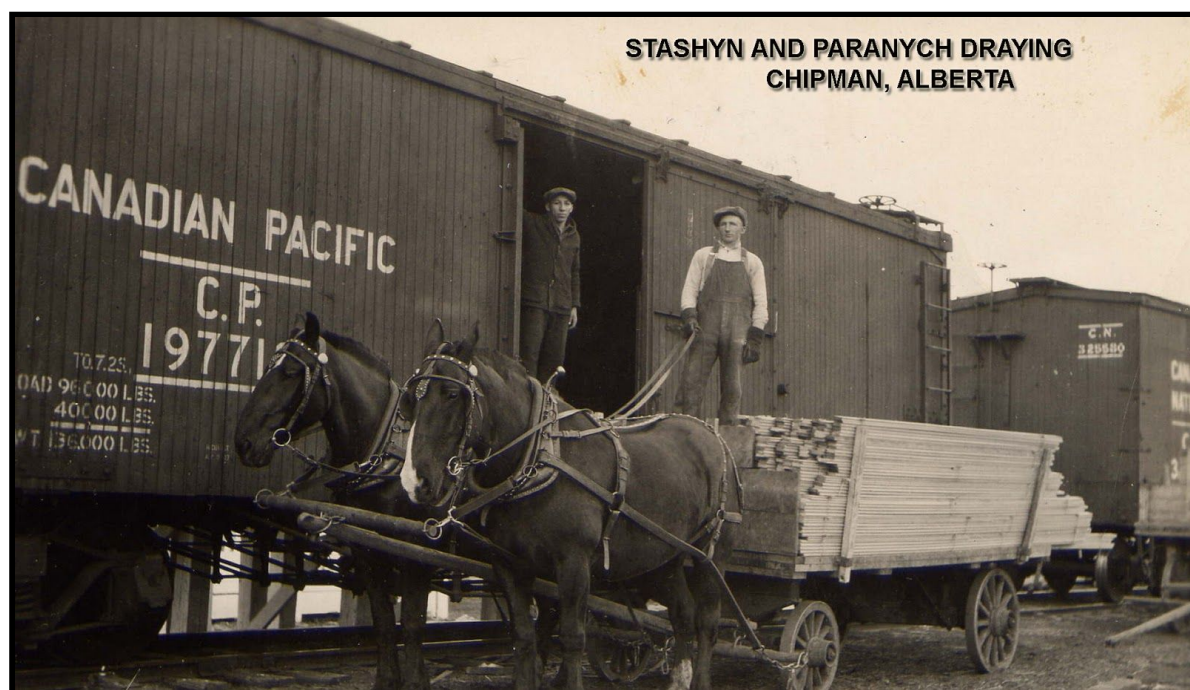
Those who owned land, especially those whose land was paid for, managed to survive. Families pulled together. The Paranych family, like many families, would get through this and more. The worst was yet to come..





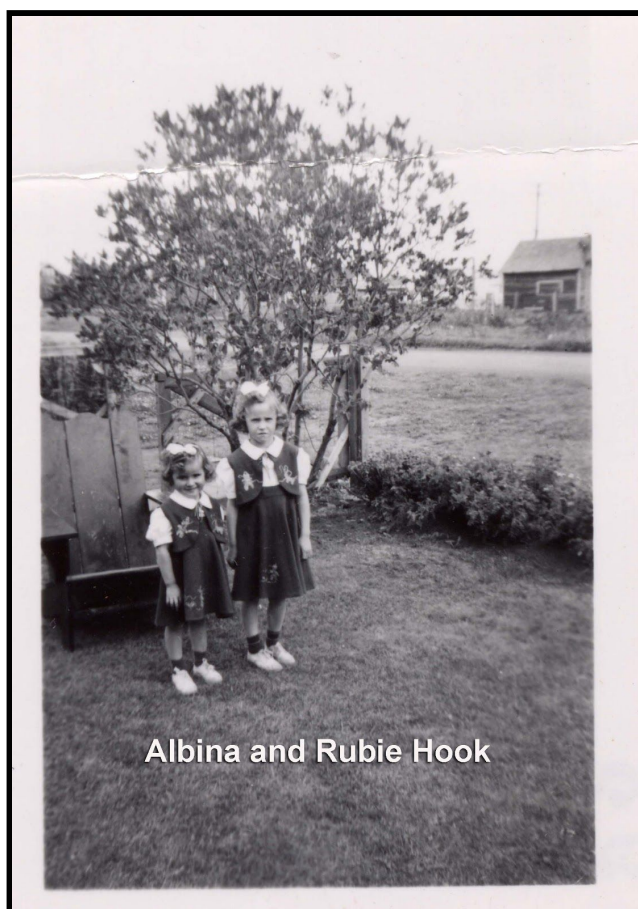
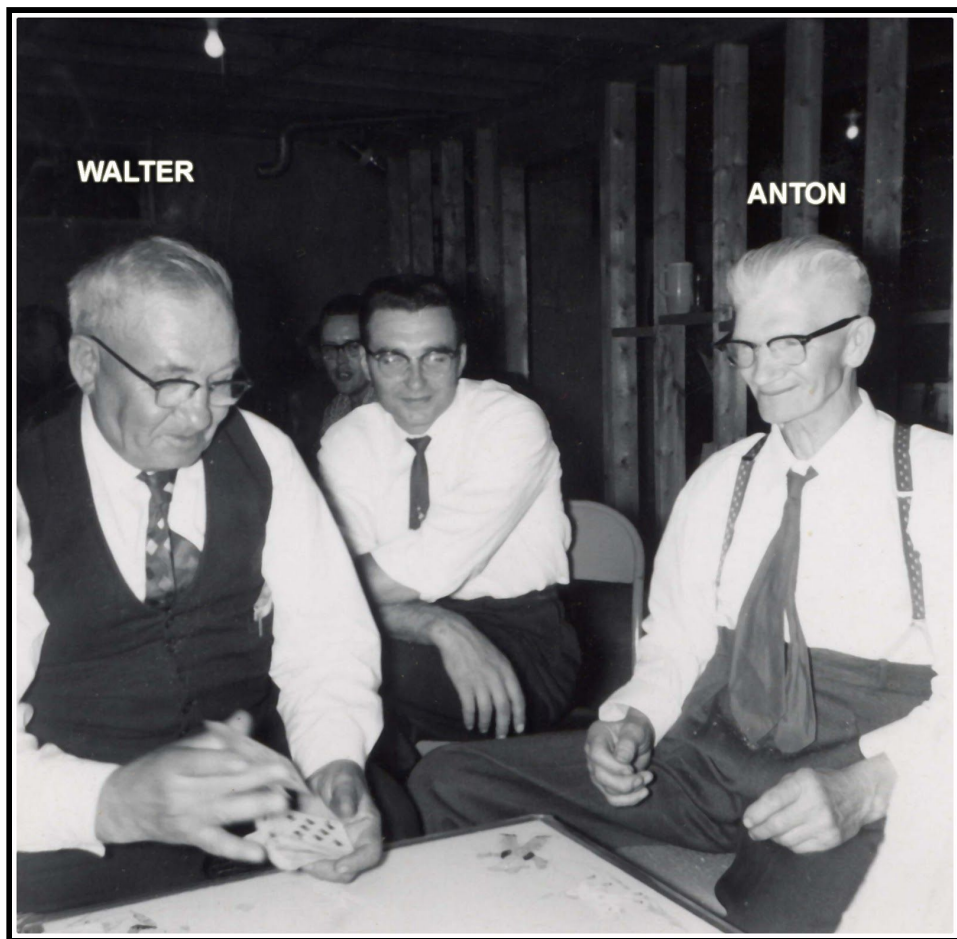


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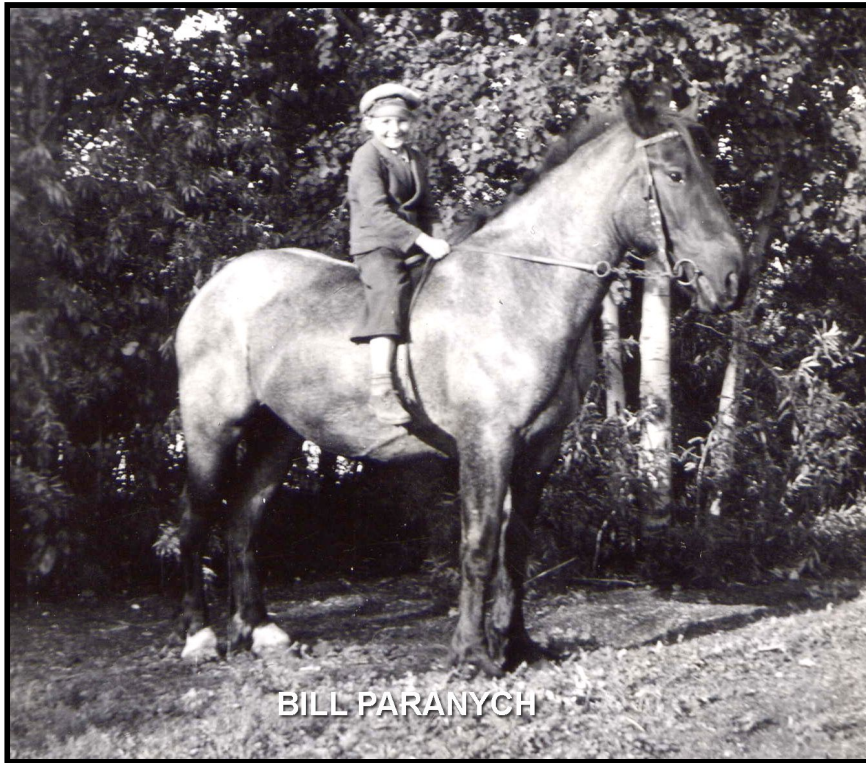


STASHYN AND PARANYCH DRAYING  
CHIPMAN, ALBERTA





Albina and Rubie Hook



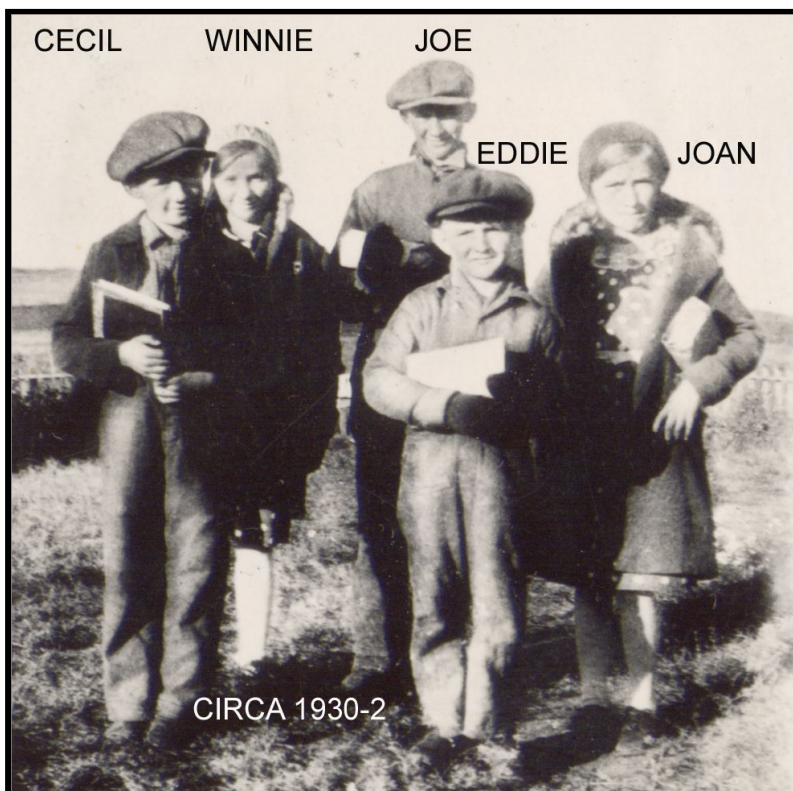


## Chapter 5- The Great Depression

It has been said that the loneliest place on earth is inside the human soul. The 1930's revealed this to be particularly true. Perhaps that is part of the reason that despite the hardships and misery of the thirties people still found strength in banding together as a family unit. Marriages were tested but many people still stood together united to protect their children and each other.

The social fabric of Canada did tear loudly and the effects would last for years. Families were ripped apart; and children were left abandoned. Orphanages strained under the load. The Saskatchewan plains turned into a dust bowl. Alberta's economy was in trouble. The Paranicz family did not suffer those hardships.

Families with strong roots that were able to band together needed to grow even stronger to make it through the hardships and shortages. There was much misery, tragic loss of life and rampant inflation. Soup lines formed in cities and orphanages were inundated with abandoned children. The Paranicz family was no exception, nor were they immune to the troubles. The stress must have been incredible but there are no records of any Paranicz family collapsing.



People still found a way through all the tragic consequences of the market speculations of the late 1920's. Those that did not have investments in the stock market probably did better than most. Money and jobs were scarce. People who grew up in this time learned not to waste anything. Times were very hard.

Banks foreclosed on a lot of farms that could not make it through the roughest times. Families moved to the city to find work and establish themselves. When the economy started to rebound in the later part of the decade many people were reluctant to take a chance of any

type. Banks became very wary about their lending patterns. Many stories of hardship amongst the Paranicz's came out of this era.



At some point, stories become exaggerated to the comical. We are all familiar with the joke about walking two miles to school through a blinding snowstorm, uphill both ways. Most of these stories though, have an element of truth. Children did walk great distances to school. Children did not always have appropriate shoes or boots to wear. The winters were cold and harsh.

Education was a luxury and not all people considered it very important. The first settlers, much like Cyril, thought the world would not change and needed the help of their children more than they thought the children would benefit from the education they received. Some were deliberately kept away from the school that taught in English and not Ukrainian. Eventually, the immigrant population started to accept the concept that education and assimilation was important for the future of their children and grandchildren.

Hobo's were common and it was accepted that some would knock on doors and do work for food. People tried to help each other out and this was truly the time when a man's word was his bond. People still trusted each other, even strangers. Doors were seldom locked. It is this ability to laugh at the tragic, to pull together in a time of need, that helped to get people through the worst of times. They learned to trust in their faith, not only in God but also in the basic humanity and friendship of their family and neighbors.

John and Victoria, struggled for a time after losing the two horses they had bought on credit. When they could not make the payments on time, they were repossessed. It caused much hardship for the couple with so many children. They relied on the use of Cyril's horses and the support of neighboring friends to bring in their crops. The thirties did not keep them from feeding their family but they did not provide for many of the basics they had come to expect. People just learned to strive even harder to achieve less.

Belts were tightened and nothing was wasted. Barter was again an accepted way of doing business. Payment could be made for some things in the form of eggs, chickens, or produce. Victoria grew huge gardens and preserved everything. They may not have had a lot but they had each other. They would seldom go hungry. They grew an enormous amount of potatoes, a staple of their diet. The photo below shows the grain "staked" and getting ready to be threshed.

HARVESTING POTATOES ON JOHN PARANICH'S FARM



But not everything about the depression years was bad, although there were struggles people still planned to move on with life. They struggled along and helped each other where they could. They found their own entertainment in the form of dances, weddings and farm fairs. Churches stepped up and pooled resources to help those most in need.

Zenowy, now working for, Prairie Bottling in Edmonton (1933-1943), had married Annie Stashyn. They had bought a house in Edmonton. The coal burning furnace also burned wooden soda pop boxes quite well.

Anton married Rosalie in 1925, they were busy running their business in Chipman and raising their family.

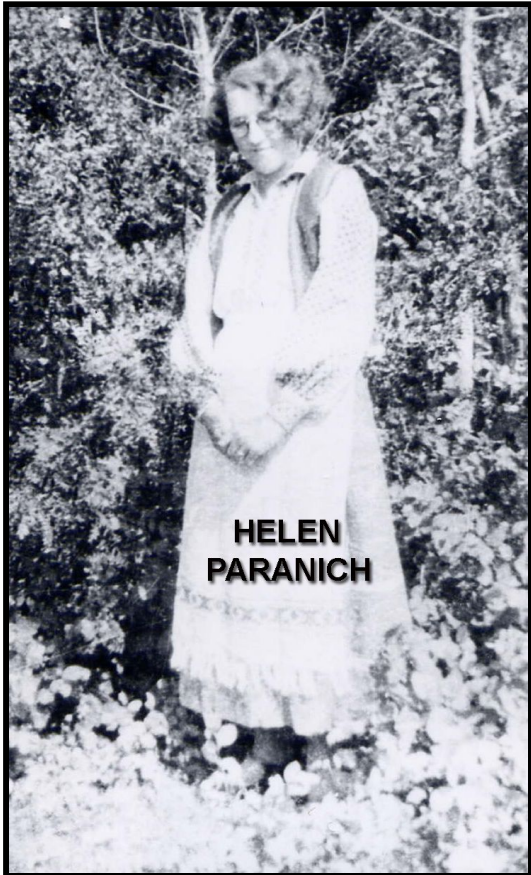


Walter and Annie, having built a new home in the 1928 were struggling. The price of grain had plummeted; the bank recalled their loan. It was fortunate that their close friend, John, stepped up and bought their farm. They made their payments to him and he paid the bank. Eventually, the farm loan was paid off and the title was given back to them by their friend, John Polodan. By 1938, they had bought their first tractor.

John and Victoria's children were growing and in 1931, and despite the financial circumstances of the times, their daughter Helen married John Panchyshyn. John was



industrious and a very good provider. He and his brother had a timber permit close to Edmonton in an area now known as Goldbar. He and my Aunt Helen, for a time had a store (1940's) and then a dry cleaners on what became 118th Ave in Edmonton. They had two children David and Ron. Her brother, Peter worked at the seed cleaning plant in Vegreville and married Olga Derdak on Nov 28, 1937.



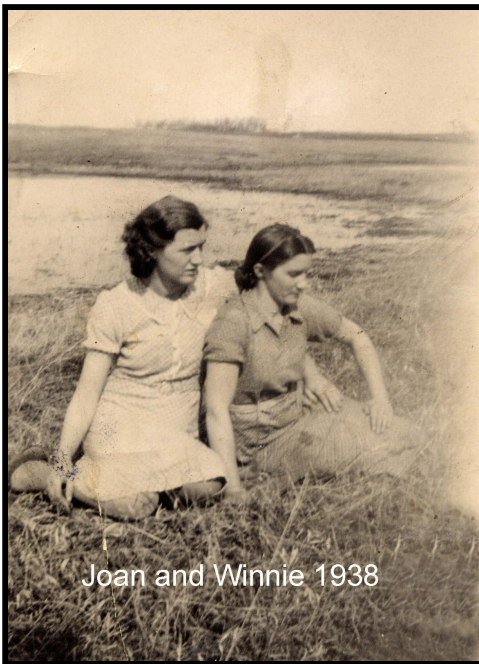
Michael their youngest son enjoyed shooting rabbits and sold the skins for a few pennies each. John and Victoria raised bees in the summer to provide them with a substitute for sugar. People had more wholesome values and entertainment was usually in the form of dances at the local church or hall. Picnics at the lake and church events also lifted their spirits.

The Paranicz children were growing and even during this time school was stressed. Education was becoming necessary if the family was to be successful in Canada.

Much has been written and documented about this time but few have noted that these times taught everyone to expect less, achieve more and to be happy with what you are given. Perhaps there is a lesson here for us.







Joan and Winnie 1938



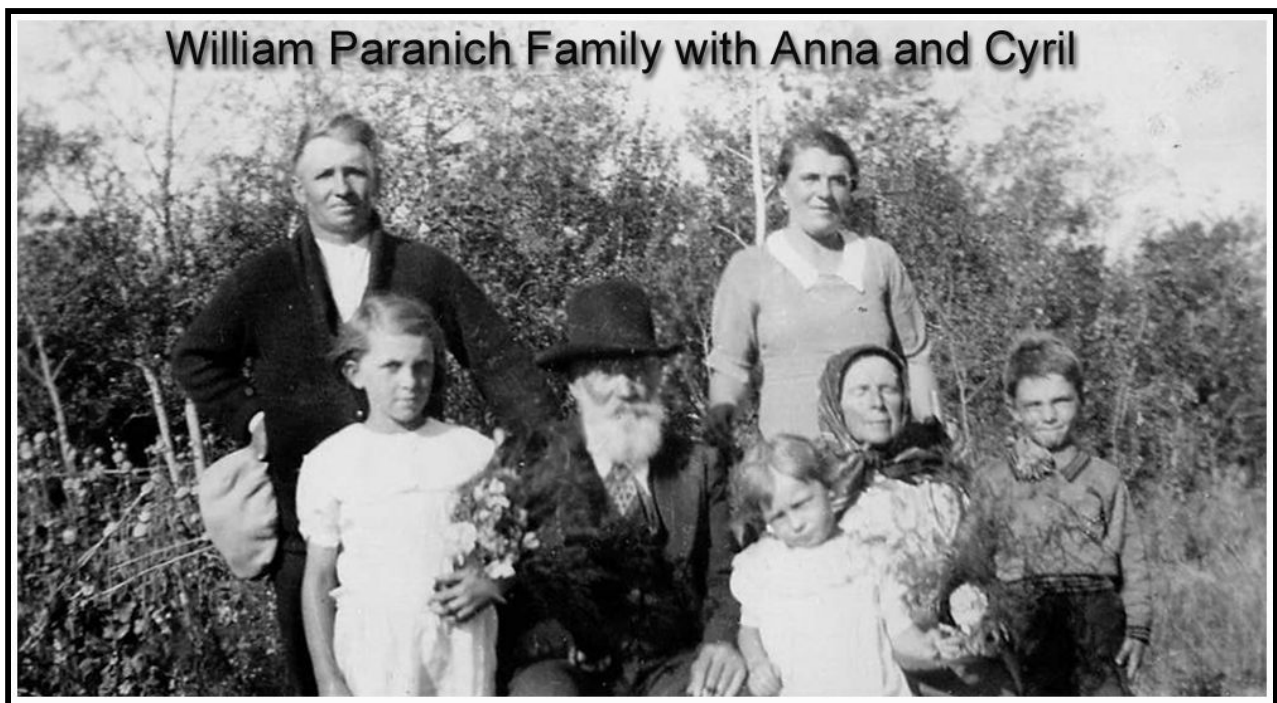
THE BAND

CECIL

*In 1933, before the death of Anna Chapelski in 1937, the following pictures were taken.*











Anna and Cyril Paranicz with William's Children  
Olga, Janet and Micheal Paranicz 1934



ANNIE (CHAPELSKI) PARANICZ  
WITH OLGA PARANYCH



EUGENE AND FLORENCE PARANICH

## *Chapter Five - THE WAR YEARS*

*The Second World War affected the Paranich family deeply. In September of 1939, the parliament of Canada recognized, as did Winston Churchill, that Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Army were endangering the existence of western civilization and that the menace had to be stopped. They declared war on Germany.*

*Swept up in the cause for freedom, a number of family member's enlisted and this caused much worry amongst the various families concerned. This was a war unlike any the world has ever seen. For the first time in history, it was possible to do war from the air.*

*Cecil, John's son, joined the new RCAF in 1943. He trained in Edmonton for a short time at the Induction Training School located in Corbett Hall on the U of A campus, at the time. He then transferred to Winnipeg where he took his Airgunner Training. Shortly after the completion of his training Cecil was reassigned to a flight crew in England. He flew 48 separate missions into Europe as a tailgunner and his tour also included several patrols around England.*

*There are always certain days in history that change the course of the world, the battle on the beaches of Normandy and the bombing of Hiroshima were two of these. The last strategic battle that Cecil was involved in was the beachhead of Normandy. Although, he was not involved in the ground incursion itself he did get involved in the night drop of flares to assist the troops on the ground.*

*Shortly after what was his final mission with Bomber Command, Cecil was reassigned as a gunnery instructor to Winnipeg. He would be discharged soon after this. He came home a changed man and by all accounts he never truly was the same afterwards.*

*Much has been made of Cecil being injured in action but a review of his medical records in the military show no serious physical injuries. He was hospitalized for a scratch on his leg when he fell off a bicycle and caught the barb wire fence. This resulted in blood poisoning. He was also hospitalized for a few days for a mild ear infection.*

*His flight records reveal much about the magnitude of his missions. Many of the sites bombed were part of the highly concentrated bombing campaigns carried out against the German strongholds in Europe. Cecil was awarded eight medals for his service to his country but never claimed them from the RCAF until shortly before his death in August of 2002.*

*Cecil's brother, Edward, joined the RCAF after his brother Cecil and studied for a time in*



Calgary to become a radio operator. He never went overseas and was stationed for most of his term in Halifax. In addition to his radio operator status he was also trained as an Air Gunner. He was due to ship out to the Pacific theater when the United States dropped the bomb on Hiroshima. Since this action effectively ended the war, both Eddie and Cecil came home to stay.

Paul Paronich, Anton 's son, spent some time in the army, during the war. Unfortunately, very little is known currently about the time he spent in the service. He also returned safely.

Myron Paranych, Klem's son, was also the army. It is interesting to note that he was married before he enlisted. Myron also survived the war. His brother Robert also served in the army and returned safely.

So all "The boys came home", but we shouldn't forget the only female family member that joined the RCAF. Steffie, Myron's sister, or "Taffie" as she called herself. Steffie was a member of the women's air corps (WAC). She was stationed in Canada and returned safely as well.



in

A number of family members enlisted in the armed forces in World War II. The following photos are a brief remembrance of this time.

Mundare, Alberta,

Aug. 25, 1941.

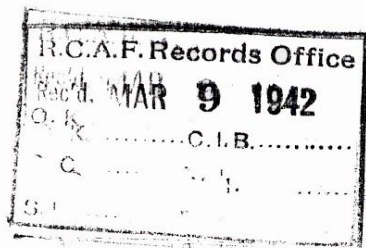
R. C. A. F. Recruiting Centre,  
Ramsay Building,  
Edmonton, Alta.

To Whom it May Concern;

This is to certify that I have known Mr. C. B. Paranick for the last five years and have found him to be quite industrious and honest in all undertakings. Furthermore I have taught Mr. Paranick and have seen at all times that he was quite diligent and possessed a good sense of responsibility. I may also state that he is of above average ability.

I have no hesitation in recommending him insofar as his character and ability are concerned.

M. P. Symyozum,  
Teacher.



# ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE

**Certificate of Discharge** of No. Can. R150895 Rank W.O.1.

Name PARANYCH, Cecil Borden

Born at Vegreville, Alberta

Attested at Edmonton, Alberta on the 2 March 1942

for the period of duration of war 8 of 34, at the age of 18 years.

## Description of Person:

Sex Male Age 21 years. Height 5 feet 9 ins.

Complexion medium Eyes hazel Hair brown

Trade Air Gunner 1st Special Group

Visible marks or scars nil

Signature of discharged person.....

*C.B. Paranych*

Discharged from Active Service under K.R. (Air), Paragraph 195 (17) On  
completion of a term of voluntary service during an emergency.

Transferred to class E of the General Section of the Reserve.

Discharge carried out at # 7 Release Centre, Calgary, Alberta

Effective 16 May/45





Joan and Cecil Paranych  
Fall 1942

*Cecil Paranych  
With John and Victoria's family before shipping out to England.*





EDDIE  
PARANICH  
AIRGUNNER



Eddie Paranich  
Circa 1943

MYRON PARANYCH ON LEAVE FROM THE BASE









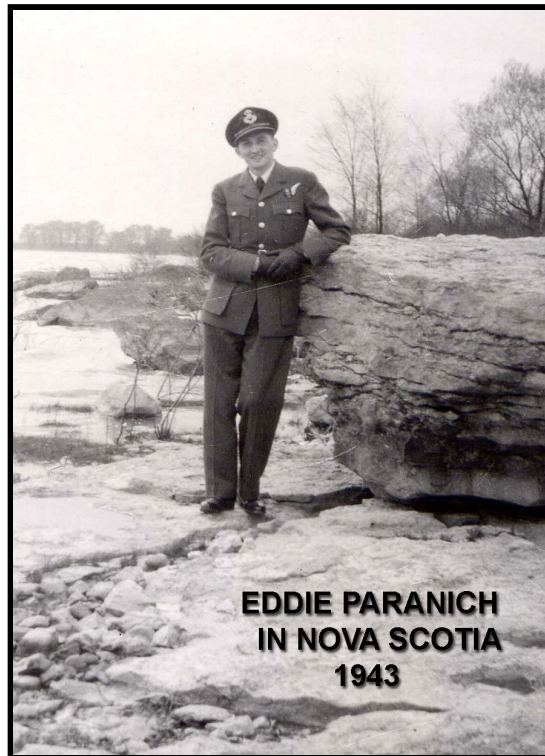
*England 1943*





*Paul Paronich (Anton's son)*





**EDDIE PARANICH  
IN NOVA SCOTIA  
1943**

*Life at home in Alberta, carried on as the war droned on. Despite the shortages because of the war, people were still getting established and having children.*



**CECIL**

*The war ended in 1945, and all of the Paranich family that enlisted did return. Many of their friends that they enlisted with did not however. The war left a mark on the country of Canada and those that did come home just wanted to get on with life wear they left off.*

*When Cecil and Edward did return, Victoria Paranich their mother, had a stone erected on the corner of John's farm tp thank God for the safe return of both her son's.*

*Late in 1945, Cyril Paranicz passed away. The family gathered together for his funeral. Some of the pictures shown below were taken at that time.*





The cycle of life had completed for Cyril Paranich. He passed away on December 10, 1945 at the age of 93. He left behind him six sons and their wives and very many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

This pioneer from Bila, Ukraine came to Canada in 1900 with his wife Maria Julia Dunajewski. Maria (or Julia to us) passed away in 1907 and Cyril married his second wife in 1908. Annie Chapelski died in 1937. He lived in his home for an additional eight years. His son, Eugene, lived in another home on the property that had modern conveniences. Cyril, however, did not want to live there, until very near the end.

He came to Canada at the age of 48 on a boat; to Royal Park on a train and then by wagon. He built a home with his bare hands and an axe. He lived in this same home from the time it was built until his death.

There was no running water, indoor plumbing or electric light. It was heated by a wood burning stove in the winter. He did not enjoy or embrace the modern conveniences that we all know and use today. He did field work with horses not tractors and by all accounts did not like cars or tractors. They were too noisy.

Despite those things he saw the world change quickly. He watched from a distance the First and Second World Wars. He lived through the great depression and watched his family flourish despite their struggles. Man had conquered flight, travel was possible by airplane now. The boats were even larger than when he came to Canada. Radio and telephones had "shrunk the world". He was by all accounts a proud, sometimes rough and at times, a stern man.

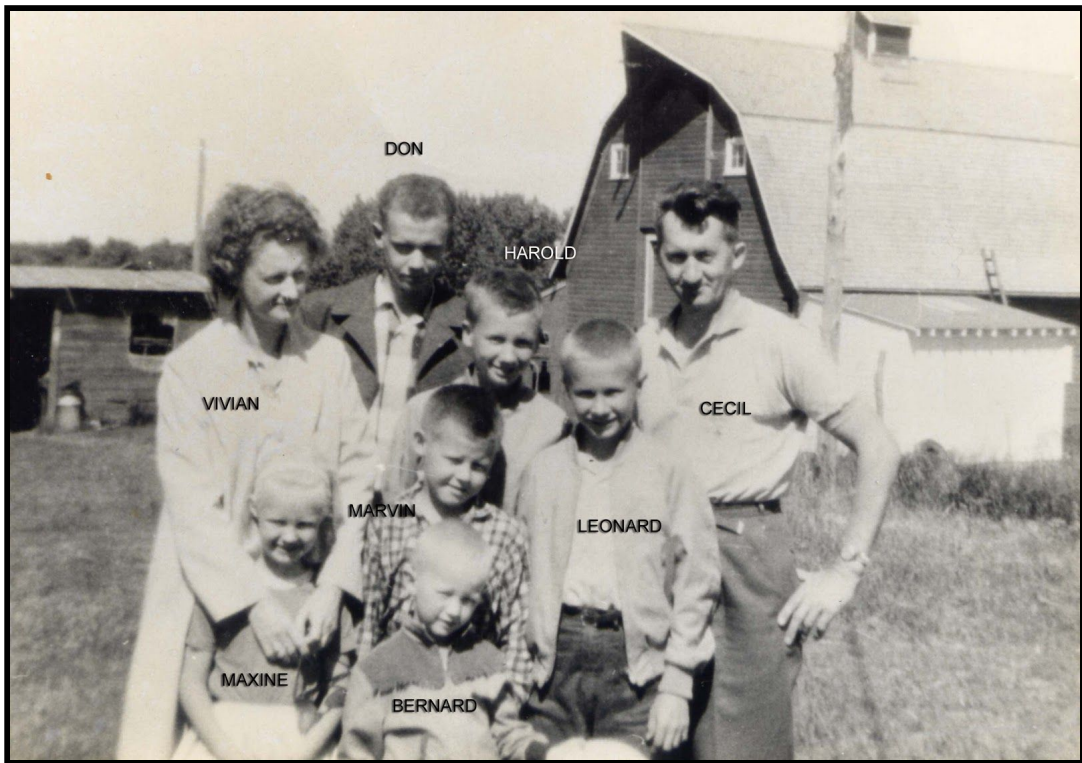
He was a true, old country Ukrainian who did not read or write English. He could read and write Ukrainian and spoke it fluently. He was educated in the Ukraine and had a working knowledge of music and the church mass. He left this world a better place by leaving the world offspring determined to make it in a modern world. To me he is Cyril Paranich, the great grandfather that I never knew. In fact, nine years would pass before I was born in 1954. Cyril was the one person I enjoyed researching the most and discovering things about.

To all of my Aunts and Uncles, he was not just Kyrilo Paranicz; he was Gido.



*The following array of photos are just an example of some of those people he left behind him to carry on.*







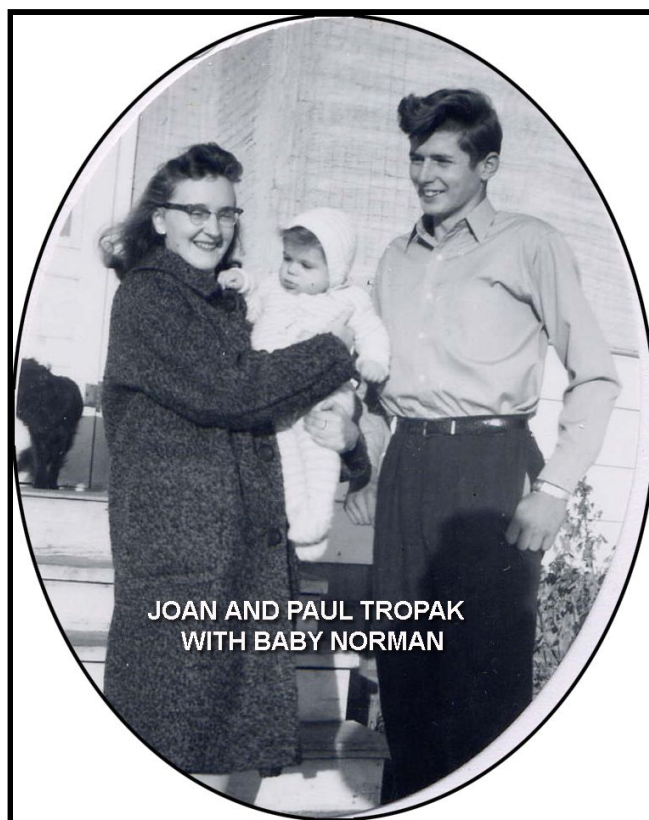


Dan and Lillian  
Petriw

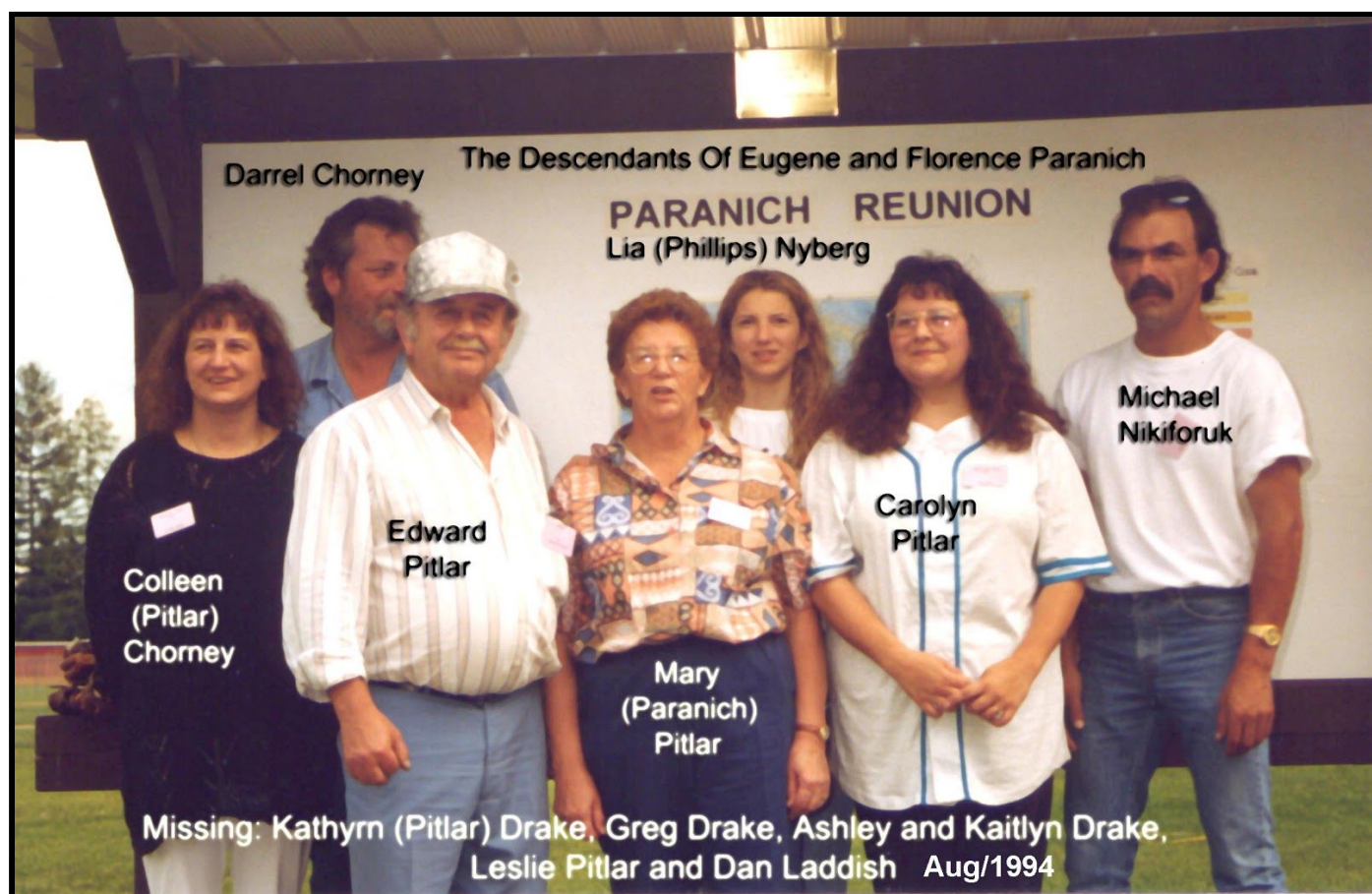


David Panchyshyn Circa 1938





JOAN AND PAUL TROPAK  
WITH BABY NORMAN



Darrel Chorney

The Descendants Of Eugene and Florence Paranich

PARANICH REUNION

Lia (Phillips) Nyberg

Colleen  
(Pitlar)  
Chorney

Edward  
Pitlar

Mary  
(Paranich)  
Pitlar

Carolyn  
Pitlar

Michael  
Nikiforuk

Missing: Kathyrn (Pitlar) Drake, Greg Drake, Ashley and Kaitlyn Drake,  
Leslie Pitlar and Dan Laddish Aug/1994



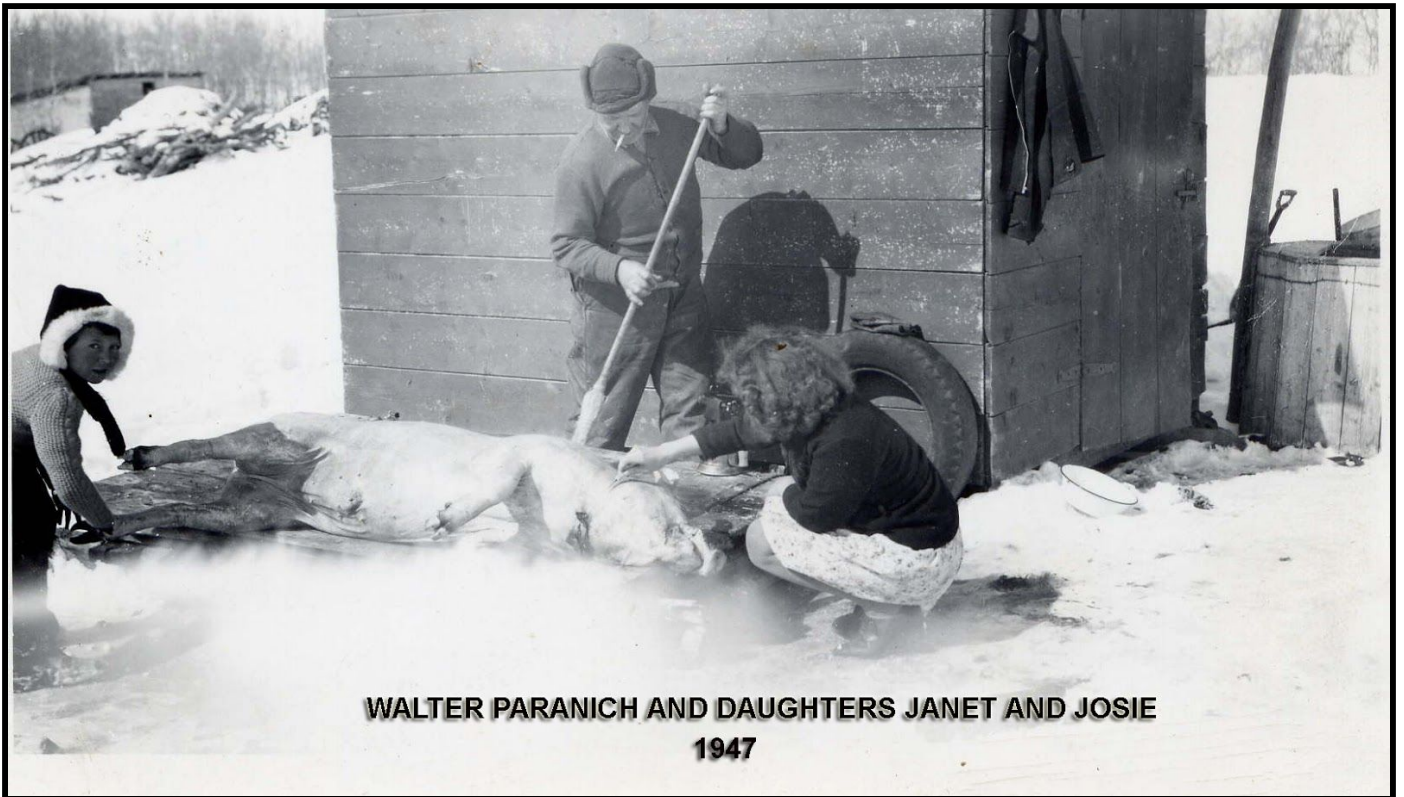
THE DESCENDANTS OF ANTON PARANICH



LESIA AND ZENOWY PICKING CUCUMBERS





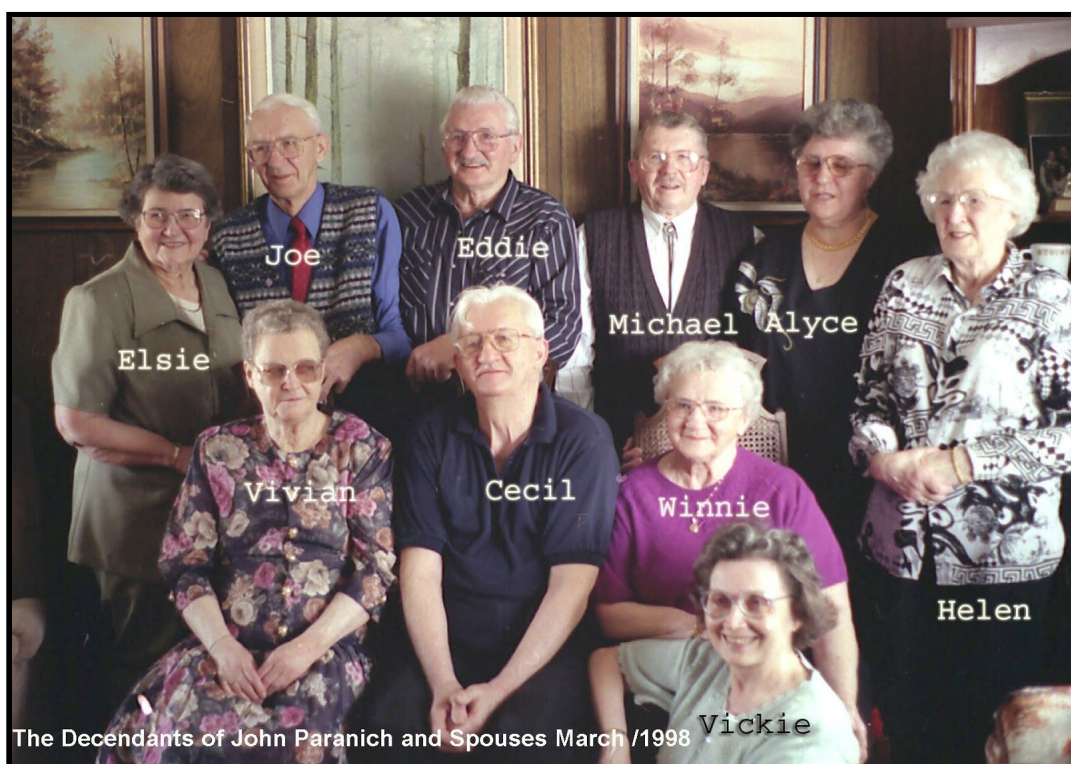


**WALTER PARANICH AND DAUGHTERS JANET AND JOSIE  
1947**

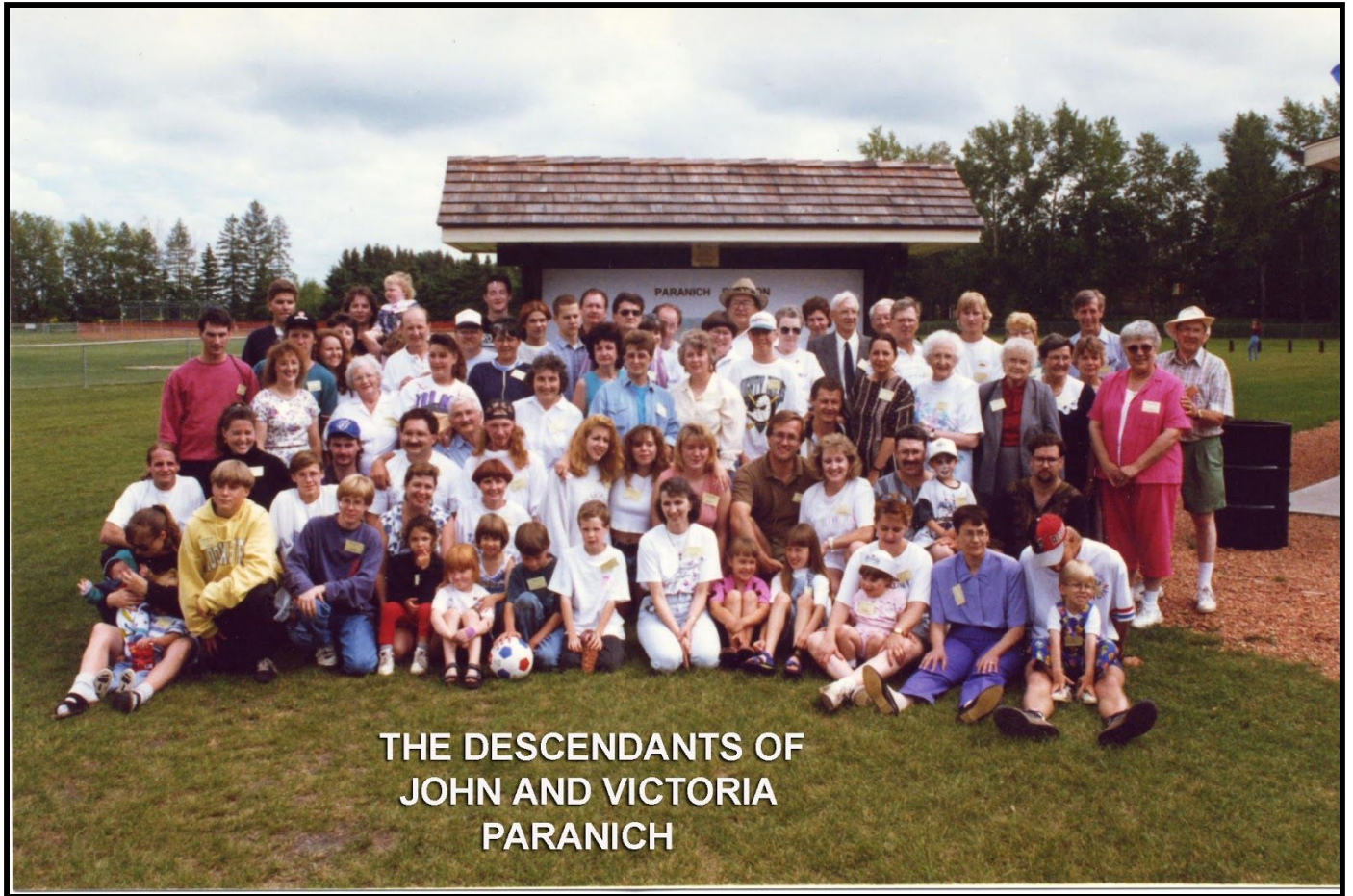


**MIKE AND ALYCE PARANICH**





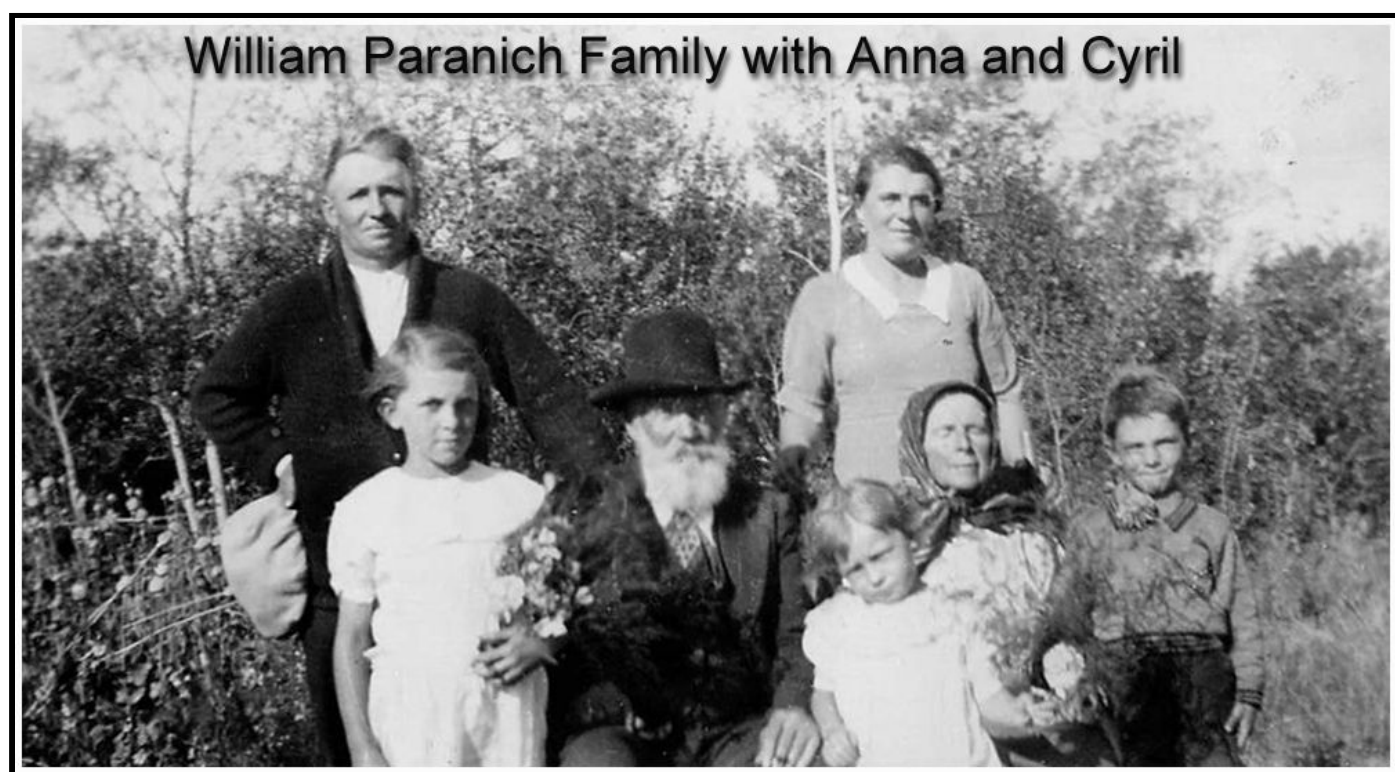
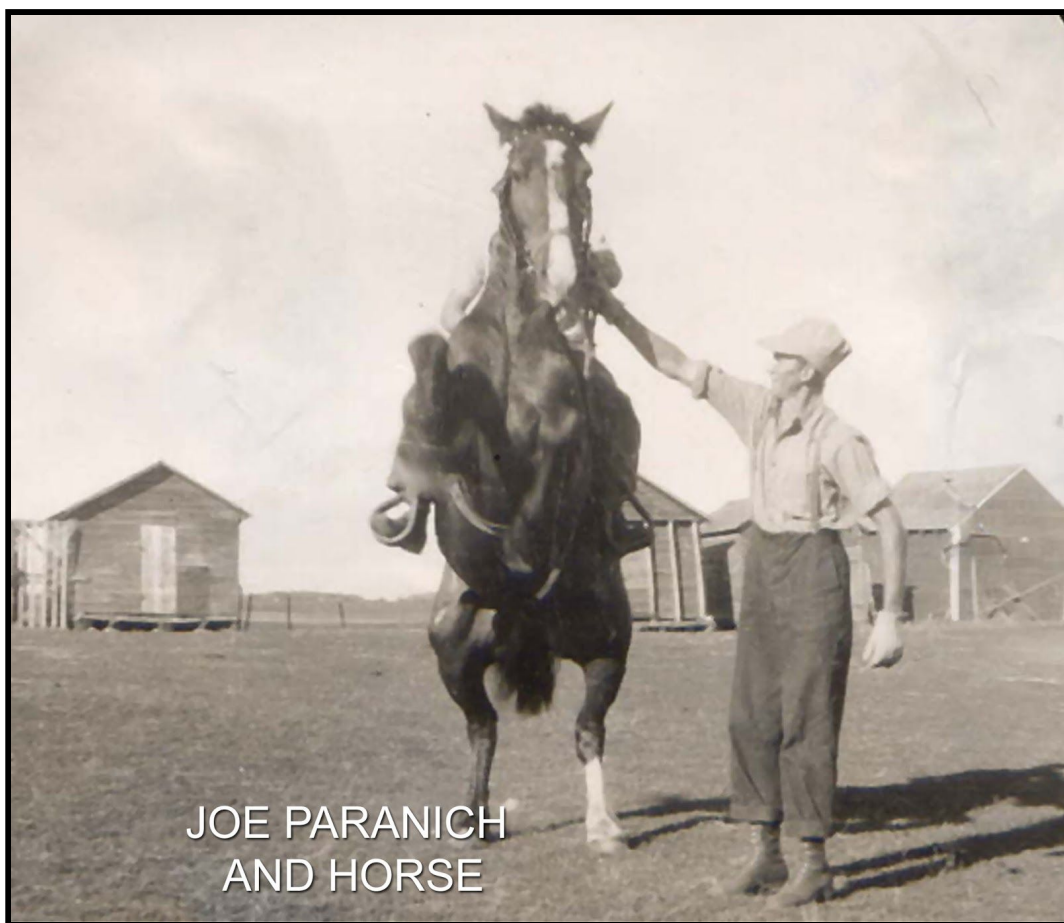




THE DESCENDANTS OF  
JOHN AND VICTORIA  
PARANICH









BACK ROW LEFT TO RIGHT: MYRON, ROBERT, CECIL  
SECOND ROW : JEAN, STEFFIE, KLEM, MORRIS  
THIRD ROW: ERNIE, MARY  
FRONT ROW: WALTER, ALEX

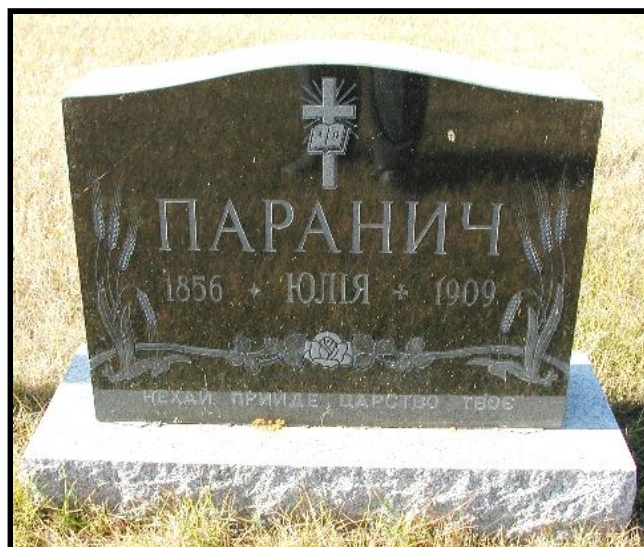


## *Conclusion*

*It would be wrong to accept that this would be the end of the story. In fact there are other stories involving the Paranicz Family. Each member has his own story and they are so interwoven with so many others I do not believe it would be fair to say this is all there is...*

*I know, as does the reader, that we have only just begun.. There are stories to be found in the 1991 family reunion booklet. There is the ever growing family tree. I have chosen to end this brief and limited history with a walk through what I call the virtual graveyard.*

### *Kyrilo and Julia Paranicz*





*Anna (Pich) (Chapelski) Paranicz  
Cyril's Second Wife*

*Cyril and Julia came to Canada 1900 with six sons  
John (Jon) Paranich  
Klem (Klenus) Paranych  
Walter (Voladymir) Paranych  
Anton (Antoni) Paranich  
Eugene (Genus) Paranich  
Sam (Zenon) Paranych*





*John and Victoria (Bandura) Paranych*



*Klem and Katherine (Belozer) Paranych*





*Walter and Anna (Chapelski) Paranych*



*Eugene and Florence (Babiuk) Paranich*



Unfortunately, at the time of this writing there is no picture available of the graves of Anton and Rosalie Paranich, nor of Anton's first wife Michellina.

There is currently no picture of Zenowy and Annie (Stashyn) Paranych. We will update this as soon as it is available.